1 2 3 4	MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA JOINT COUNCIL MEETING April 6-7, 2019 – Calgary Meeting Minutes		
5 6 7 8 9 10	<i>Joint Council Present</i> : Calvin Quan (Moderator), Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator), Allan Hiebert (Secretary/Treasurer), Terry Stefaniuk (Moderator MCSK), Andrea De Avila (MCM), Brenda Tiessen- Wiens (Moderator MCA), Margaret Kruger-Harder (MCA), Arli Klassen (Moderator, MCEC), Betty Loewen (MCBC), Lee Dyck (Moderator MCBC), Henry Funk (MCSK), Gerald Gerbrandt (Moderator MCM), Alicia Good (MCEC)		
11 12 13	Staff Present: Henry Paetkau (Interim EM), Tim Wiebe Neufeld (MCA), Ryan Siemens (MCSK), Ken Warkentin (MCM), David Martin (MCEC), Garry Janzen (MCBC), Doug Klassen (in-coming EM as observer)		
14	Regrets:		
15 16 17 18	 Welcome: Calvin called the meeting to order at 8:37 and welcomed everyone here. Thanks to our hosts in Calgary. Pleased to have Doug Klassen at our meetings to provide advance knowledge of how we work. 		
19 20 21	2) Opening : Calvin provided an opening focusing on Tim Keller's writing: A Lent reading based on Mark's Gospel story of Jesus healing a leper.		
22 23 24	3) MC Canada Covenant: The covenant was reviewed, and all present joined in the Litany for MC Canada Joint Council.		
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32	 4) Agenda and Minutes a) The agenda (page 3 of docket) was approved as circulated, with the following additions/changes: We will leave slightly earlier for the evening session at Calgary Foothills. There were no conflicts of interest raised in relationship to our agenda. b) The minutes of the January 26-27, 2019 Joint Council meeting (pages 7-18 of docket) were reviewed. i) Line 264 should read Byron Rempel Burkholder ii) Line 432 – the year is 2022, not 20222. 		
33 34	CONSENSUS: The minutes of the January 26-27, 2019 Joint Council meeting were approved as amended.		
35	c) The minutes of the February 9 Joint Council e-mail vote (page 19 of docket) were reviewed.		
36 37	CONSENSUS: The minutes of the February 9, 2019 Joint Council e-mail vote were approved as circulated.		

38 39 40 41		d)	The minutes of the October 13-14, 2017 Special Delegate Assembly (pages 20-38 of docket) were reviewed. The understanding of bringing this to our next assembly is that the same constituency body needs to approve the minutes. We also understand that names will not be associated with individual comments which are recorded.
42 43			NSUS: The minutes of the October 13-14, 2017 Special Delegate Assembly were recommended proval at the June, 2019 Delegate Gathering.
44 45		e)	The minutes of the July, 2016 Delegate Assembly (page 39-68 of docket) were reviewed.
46	5)	Bu	siness Arising:
47		a)	The "Volunteer Covenant" and "Declarations of not being an ineligible individual" documents
48			have been completed and signed by all board members and senior financial staff.
49		b)	Extending Canadian Mennonite Covenant and Every Home Plane Grant for 2019 (page 69 of
50			docket). A letter has been sent to the Canadian Mennonite extending covenant for one year.
51		c)	Developing a shared messaging regarding other global Anabaptist partnerships, in addition to
52			Witness worker activities. This is a work in progress as communicators are determining what
53			type of reporting they are responsible for.
54		d)	MWC 2018 Contribution. The additional amount has been forwarded for the last fiscal year so
55		、	that the total for FYE 2019 is \$35,000.
56		e)	
57 58			to be a signatory.
58 59	6)	М	oderator report: Calvin presented his report (page 70 of JC docket).
60	0)	a)	
61		uj	individual congregation. This is a change from past practice.
62		b)	Calvin acknowledged Henry Paetkau's work on behalf of MC Canada, and was grateful to Doug K
63		2)	for his participation and presence both at these meetings and at last week's Mission
64			Consultation
65			
66	7)	Exe	ecutive Minister report: Henry presented the staff reports
67		a)	Executive Director report (pages 71-73 of JC docket):
68			i) The report was reviewed.
69			ii) Henry also reviewed the positions on various networks and boards that are appointed by
70			MC Canada (listed in docket). Joint Council affirmed positions and some open positions will
71			need to have recommendations from the Regional Churches.
72			iii) Question: In what way is diversity attended to in these appointments?
73			iv) Question: What is the legal/financial responsibility we have when we appoint board
74			members?
75			v) Question: Would it be helpful to have reports from our representatives?
76			 (1) Reports can come through Executive Staff (if staff are MC Canada reps.) (2) Solutions of the security of the sec
77			(2) Perhaps at a future meeting we can discern how/who is accountable for reporting

78		vi)	AMBS is in a presidential search and Henry Paetkau participated in discerning the search
79			committee and ideal president for the next term
80		vii) Presidents of our four schools have met annually and ESG proposes a zoom meeting to
81			maintain contact with the presidents and to connect them with each other's efforts at
82			leadership development
83	b	Int	ternational Witness report (Jason Martin, pages 74-78 of JC docket):
84		i)	The report was reviewed.
85		ii)	The Implementation of the Witness Support Teams is underway. The WST manual has been
86			developed. Jason has begun the training for these teams. Regional Church Engagement staff
87			are working together to help Jason with this. There will be a press release shortly to
88			articulate WST to constituency.
89		iii)	There are also new initiatives which are being generated primarily at the Regional Church
90			level which will develop new enthusiasm and engagement by Canadian Congregations
91	c)	In	digenous-Settler Relations (Steve Heinrichs, pages 79-85 of JC docket):
92		i)	The report was reviewed.
93		ii)	Comment: The format of the report was very helpful.
94	d	Cc	ommon Word (Arlyn Friesen Epp, pages 86-88 of JC docket):
95		i)	The report was reviewed.
96		ii)	CW is profitable (after subsidies) and all its mandates are being fulfilled
97		iii)	MennoMedia is updating their bylaws and considers MC Canada an important partner.
98		iv)	It is noted that MennoMedia.ca has been rolled out this week making it possible to order
99			resources from a Canadian source.
100	8) F i	nanc	e Update:
101	a	FY	E 2019 Financial Results (page 89-92 of docket)
102		i)	There is a new reporting format and layout. Joint Council reviewed the format and
103			suggested various changes which JC Treasurer will forward to our Financial Manager.
104		ii)	Is there any long range planning for future budgets?
105			(a) The new structure has the RC determining long range planning
106			(b) Affirming a three-year budget – this requires the RC to also have three-year budgets
107			(c) 2019 has been a test year and we now have a basis to move forward with better
108			knowledge of what is possible
109	b) FY	E 2020 Draft Budget (pages 89-92)
110		i)	Communications Officer has been hired on a contract basis and this position has been
111			provisionally added to the communications budget
112		ii)	Travel budget has been reduced for EM and IW and this amount will be added to program
113			lines
114		iii)	The JC and ESG meetings are a significant expenditure. Various changes to JC meetings were
115			suggested with an idea to reduce costs and improve constituency contact. Do we need four
116			face-to-face meetings per year?
117	CON	SENS	US: Joint Council recommends the budget as circulated for presentation to the Annual
110			in DOuble community

118 Gathering in BC this summer.

119	c) Review of Bequest and Deferred Contribution Accounts (page 93 of docket)
120	i) The Bequest Accounts, Deferred Contribution Accounts and other funds were reviewed.
121	ii) It is noted that there are few policies governing the distribution of these reserves. MC
122	Canada is working at development of these policies. Work is being done on
123	recovering/developing policies on the use of various funds, and gathering them in one place
124	so they are easier to find.
125	iii) In the future it would be nice to have a multi-year budget for our New Project and First
126	Fruits reserve funds.
127	iv) Bequests represent work done primarily in previous generations, current generations are
128	making wills with potentially different priorities and MC Canada no longer has Church
129	Engagement workers. Now that Regional Churches are doing the Church Engagement work
130	MC Canada may have a significant reduction in bequests
131	9) In Camera
400	
132	Lunch Break 12:10 pm
133	10) Communications Strategy:
134	a) Communication platform proposal (page 94-101 of docket)
135	i) The plan to create a new website platform, which would hold the nation-wide and Regional
136	Church websites and could also hold individual church websites, was reviewed. The ESG
137	recommended accepting the plan and providing funds for its development from the First
138	Fruits fund.
139	ii) Responses:
140	(1) Question: Can congregations just have a link, if they are happy with their current setup?
141	Yes.
142	(2) Question: Who does the billing? This will be looked into and clarified.
143	(3) Question: Can the full service be hosted on a congregation's local server rather than be
144	lodged on the Barefoot server? This will be looked into.
145	(4) Comment: How well it is communicated to congregations will determine how it will be
146	received. If we go with this proposal, it needs to be communicated immediately.
147	(5) Comment: Ensure that test-case congregations would not all be big, urban, Caucasian
148	congregations.
149	(6) Question: Can more congregations that 10 be part of the rollout? A question to ask
150	Barefoot
151	(7) Comment: A call to ensure security and that it will be on a Canadian server.
152	(8) Comment: The CRM (Constituency Relations Management) is a significant advantage of
153	this proposal.
154	Consensus: That the Joint Council authorise spending of up to a total of \$125,000 (additional \$100,000
155	above previous authorization) from the First Fruits Fund for the website development as presented.
450	
156	11) Letter of Questions & Concerns Regarding Joint Council's "Public Speaking and Civil Disobedience
157	Policy"

158	a)	Steve Heinrichs wrote a letter regarding the policy adopted at the last JC meeting.

b) Various JC members provided responses to Steve's letter

160	Action: That Gerald Gerbrandt and Andrea De Avila from the Joint Council members, along with the
161	Executive Minister, will meet with Steve Heinrichs to continue to wrestle with Steve's concerns. The
162	results of this conversation will be brought back to our table to see if we need to make policy changes
163	or if they be kept as they are. This is an effort of seeking wisdom and discernment.

- 164 **12) Mission Consultation Weekend**
- a) Report: 6-8 people from each RC gathered, engaging the question of the God's mission and the
 mission of the church in our current context. Each Regional Church took home commitments to
 action and accountability for those actions. There was appreciation for the opportunity to talk in
 regional clusters, but this resulted in little cross pollinate across the regions.
- b) The members who attended the weekend shared their comment.
- 170
- 171 **13) 2**

13) 2019 Delegate Gathering Preparations

- a) Registration has been mocked up for testing, and should go live next week. While the
 registration fee is considerably lower that recent past gatherings, there has been an escalation
 of food costs.
- b) Program, Speakers, Youth, Worship: Seven firestarter speakers have been identified, 8 or 9
 workshop presenters have committed to coming. There is a good variety and diversity in the
 expression of the church. Various social activities and regional excursions have been planned.
 Monday morning will be a concluding intergenerational service with communion
- c) Communications: The conversation about live-streaming of the delegate gathering and worship
 has not yet been concluded. Suggestion to record the firestarters and post them to the YouTube
 channel
- d) Resolutions committee, submission deadline: Approximately 2.5 hours for the delegate
 gathering. Resolutions would be brought forward by the Regional Churches, not individuals or
 congregations. It is important to have a Resolutions Committee available on standby.
- e) Agenda focus: Exciting the delegates with the mission that God is calling us to engage. Possible
 items for discussion at the delegate session were suggested.
- 187 f) Nominations Committee: 3 of 5 regions have named their member for the Nominations
 188 Committee
- 189 g) Emphasis on Regional Churches reporting as the essence of this collaboration that we are as a190 nationwide Mennonite Church
- h) Listening Committee: For the entire weekend, not just the business session, with possibly a
 report in the Monday morning gathered time. Listening for matters to bring to the attention of
 Joint Council
- i) Parliamentarian: To be determined by the Executive Minister and the ESG
- 195 j) Recording Secretaries: ESG appointed as recording secretaries for the delegate session
- 196 k) Delegate Selection: Each Regional Church is moving ahead well with their selection

197	I)	2022 Gathering, July 1-3 AB: This date would be prior to the Calgary Stampede, but there would
198		still be an effort to avoid Stampede activity. Could be held in Edmonton.
199	m)	LGBTQ+, Family, Friends Gathering: This is in line with the September 2017 confession made by
200		the General Board. In the past it has been a sharing time open to whoever comes. The main
201		assumption is that it is a safe place. Joint Council members would be there to ensure the safety
202		of the space. The invitation in the program book needs to be framed well as to what it is for and
203		what it is not for. Allan Hiebert, Geraldine Balzer and Betty Loewen are committed to being
204		there from Joint Council.
205		
206	14) Joi	nt Council Member Updates
207	a)	Alicia Good will be on maternity leave for the next year. She will be stepping down from Joint
208		Council for this reason. This will be Alicia's final meeting.
209	b)	Executive Committee Member Terms
210		i) Betty Loewen's 1 year term on the Executive Committee is up for renewal. She has agreed
211		to serve for another term.
212		
213	CONSE	NSUS: that Betty Loewen be appointed to serve a second one year term on the Executive
214	Commi	ttee.
215		
216	15) De	brief
217		
218	16) Clo	sing – Henry Funk
219	a)	Henry told the story of picking up garbage on his daily walks. Hebrews 13:5 assures us of God's
220		abiding presence. May we also be God's enduring presence where we are.
221		
222	Supper	and Travel to Foothills Mennonite Church for MCA – JC Meet and Greet
223		
224	17) Ad	journ for evening
225	Sunday	r, April 7
226	Regrets	s: Arli Klassen, Margaret Kruger-Harder.
227	18) On	ening – Alicia Good.
228		Alicia opened in a worshipful time of prayer, scripture, group sharing, and song, with Henry
229	u)	Paetkau and Doug Klassen offering communion.
230		
231	19) MO	CA Church Engagement Debrief
232	-	Calvin thanked our MCA members for the hosting of the evening event.
233	, b)	JC shared their reflections on the engagement and made some suggestions for future events.
234	- /	
235	20) MV	VC Youth Summit
236	-	Application process for Youth Delegate nominee—Geraldine and Andrea.

237		i) Geraldine walked us through the application outlined in the Mennonite World Conference
238		document from the Joint Council meeting Sharepoint files.
239		ii) Title corrected to "Young Adult" delegate, as age parameters are 18-30 in 2021.
240		iii) Attendance at the summit includes a commitment to participate in a MWC project. This
241		commitment will be communicated with the application package, and be part of an
242		accompanying covenant.
243		iv) Suggestions: ask for 3 references, one of whom would be a pastor; include wording similar
244		to what we ask for of pastors in the MLI along lines of "nothing in background that would be
245		a problem"; clarify expectations for itineration after; include question about holding valid
246		passport and citizenship status; add question about church participation/faith community.
247	b)	MWC has asked for delegates to be identified by January 2020.
248	c)	At this stage Youth Delegates represent their country for 6 years. This is being revisited by MWC
249		because of continuity and shifting life realities affecting availability during this stage of life. They
250		also have a role in researching topics for MWC consideration as part of their project work. In
251		some countries Youth Delegates are clearly leaders in their country denominational church
252		body, who plan events, distribute MWC resources, provide forums for conversation, etc.
253	d)	We are planning to have one attend from each regional church, with one identified as MC
254		Canada's Youth Delegate.
255	e)	Process going forward:
256		i) Geraldine and Andrea will keep working on draft, with goal of being complete by April 30.
257		They will distribute for comment and hope to have a finalized application by end of May.
258		ii) Announce opening of applications as soon as ready, and then promote at our Abbotsford
259		gathering. Promotion to include Canadian Mennonite, Schools, communicators, youth, etc.
260		iii) In determining selection, attention will need to be given to a diversity of representation
261		including age, gender, ethnic background, etc.
262		iv) Thought needs to be put into how to utilize the resulting Young Adult team as they work
263		together to be a resource and engage Canadian constituency.
264		v) Alternates should be identified, in case circumstances for involvement changes prior to the
265		2021 event.
266		vi) Application deadline September 30; regional church ranks its applicant; bring these to a
267		Final Selection Committee for consideration. Final Selection Committee to include one rep
268		from each region. Each Region to identify its rep for this Final Selection Committee.
269		vii) Encouragement for resulting Team to network with Teams from other countries, such as MC
270		USA.
271		
272	21) Stu	idy Conference 2020
273	a)	Henry updated on conversations he has had with school leaders about involvement in planning
274		of Study Conferences.
275	b)	Question about target group we are hoping to address—links to theme.
276		i) Church leaders, pastors, wide appeal? Support for academic grappling, but also a practical
277		application aspect. Can these both be in place together?

278 Consensus: that study conference should be focused for pastors, leaders, and others engaged in the

- theme (vs. general appeal) but should hit that "sweet spot" of also being accessible.
- 280 c) Several possible theme options explored
- d) How might we work out a rotation between schools? CMU has been the first contact for this
 because of previously-identified energy they have for this idea. Care needed to work through
 the relationship of ownership/leadership between schools and MC Canada. Need to organize
 this so that MC Canada owns and drives these gatherings.
- Consensus: that 2-3 others would join Executive Minister in being a part of an ad-hoc conference
 leadership group. Gerald Gerbrandt and Ryan Siemens identified as reps from Joint Council and ESG.
 Several names of women identified from MC Canada constituency were brought forward, one or two
 who will be asked by the EM to join the ad-hoc group.
- 289 e) Logistics of budget, point person(s), other logistics to be determined. At this point are assuming
 290 a self-funded model (vs. Delegate gatherings)
- 291

293

- 292 22) Calvin presented Alicia with a card in recognition of this being her last Joint Council meeting.
- 294 23) Change in Signing Authority as of June 1
- Consensus: that as of June 1, 2019, signing authority for Mennonite Church Canada be changed to
 Doug Klassen, Laura Zacharias, Sean East, Calvin Quan, and Allan Hiebert.
- 297 24) Regional Church Reporting
- a) MCBC Lee Dyck
- 299 i) Jared Siebert was well received at MCBC. Workshops on mental health were excellent. Power, 300 privilege, and prejudice storytelling went very well. Unexpected turn when Walter Bergen was 301 elected as Vice-Moderator to fill a vacancy there. Ebenezer church leaders had pushed for a 302 resolution about engaging congregations in further conversations about sexuality, with the potential to have new conversations engaged at MCBC. This resolution was defeated. Review 303 304 process underway for Kevin Barkowsky after being one year in his role of communication and 305 church engagement. Moving forward to goals reached at the Mission Consultation. Looking at 306 "nimble" structural approach to support ministry interests congregations bring forward.
- 307 b) MCA Brenda Tiessen-Wiens
- 308 i) Good feeling at Delegate Sessions. Had not had workshops for reporting on ministries, and these
 309 did not appear missed. Good discussions and feel, nice build of Vision 2020 process. New office
 310 for MCA in Edmonton from which Tim will be working, open house on April 9. April 13 new
 311 committees and General Board will be meeting.
- 312 c) MCSK Terry Stefaniuk
- Assembly plenary sessions were energizing. Youth presence was significant, and speaker David
 Fitch engaged them. Terry will be touring to visit chairs, committees, and boards of the various
 projects with MC Sask involvement (eg. Nursing home). Two upcoming agenda items are policy
 development and addressing camp governance.

- **d)** MCM Gerald Gerbrandt.
- 318 i) Annual gathering was in March. Finances were tough. Questions about whether or not to 319 continue a radio program they have had since the 1950's. Search beginning for a church 320 engagement person. Two young board members will be leaving, and will miss their involvement. 321 Overall the delegate gathering was uneventful; for some this was a welcome relief from recent 322 ones with more contention. Timing was only a 6 hour day, which meant little time for 323 nationwide agenda, etc. How to balance all things is difficult. MCM did have a leadership day 324 beforehand focused on self-care for pastors. There may be a nationwide issue of support for 325 pastors, who can feel lonely, isolated, and unable to be vulnerable. Struggle with focus of 326 camping ministry in wake of declining numbers. Some questions of how camping fits into the 327 MCM ministry and budget. Teen volunteer numbers at camp are way up. Constituency 328 perception that MCM staff are overworked. Reporting done by video, which was well-received. 329 Congregations may pick this up and use them in their services as a means to share what staff are 330 doing. 30% of campers are from constituency.
- ii) Henry noted leadership development as a gap in MC Canada's programming, in the wake of
 what was shared about the self-care for pastors.
- iii) Henry also noted that care needs to be given to how to report/engage with MC Canada activities
 within regional churches, both written and within sessions themselves. Also include reporting of
 other regional church activities? Video or written reports standard? Reimagination necessary.

ACTION: How to best share inspiring stories between Regional Churches to be an agenda item at the October Joint Council meeting.

- 338 e) MCEC David reported for Arli Klassen
- 339 i) Yesterday 60+ youth and young adults gathered to discuss how to engage young people in the 340 church. Will see what comes out of this. Resources have been gathered to help resource 341 congregations. Brian Bauman will be retiring at the end of the year. Published SafeZone as a 342 camp-focused companion to the SafeSpace publication, to be used as a training document for 343 boundary crossing/abuse. This resource is free for regions to use. About 6 congregations are in 344 discussions about leaving MCEC. Bringing a totally re-written bylaw for approval at MCEC, 345 reframing membership as covenant, including discernment, defining progression of membership 346 from emerging to full, requiring 2 outside-facilitated conversation sessions before can leave. 347 Testing these with congregations/delegates in advance. Connecting with Generous Space 348 Ministries to engage gender issues.
- 349 ii) MCBC has used Generous Space Ministries as a resource in providing a safe place for
 350 conversations with some of their pastors and leaders. This has been a positive experience.
 - iii) Henry noted that CommonWord and MCC are working on sharing resources together addressing abuse issues. MCC has dedicated staff working on materials related to this issue.
- 352 353

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354 25) Additional Agenda Item: Joint Council was apprised of correspondence that was received by Henry,
 355 Calvin, and Gerald from an individual, which identified a concern related to an MCEC program decision.

356 **CONSENSUS:** The Joint Council affirms the Moderator respond to the correspondence indicating that Joint

357 Council was informed of the correspondence and determined that such matters fall within the mandate of

358 the Regional Churches.

359	Lunch
360	Margaret Kruger-Harder rejoined the meeting.
361 362	26) Next Meeting Dates a) Joint Council
	-
363	i) June 27, 2019, Abbotsford —in advance of Pastors Day (June 28) and Gathering (June 29-
364	July 1), and July 1 afternoon.
365	ii) October 5-6, 2019, Winnipeg.
366	iii) January 25-26, 2020, Toronto
367	iv) May 23-24, 2020, Winnipeg.
368	v) June 27, 2020, AGM - Zoom
369	vi) October 3-4, 2020, Winnipeg
370	vii) Jan 30-31, 2021, Vancouver
371	viii) May 22-23, 2021, Winnipeg
372	ix) June 19, 2021, AGM - Zoom
373	x) Oct 2-3, 2021, Winnipeg
374	xi) Jan 29-30, 2022, Saskatoon
375	xii) April 9-10, 2022, Winnipeg
376	xiii) Oct 1-2, 2022, Winnipeg
377	b) 2020 Study Conference
378	i) Suggestion later in October or early November, 2020.
379	c) MWC Global Youth Summit Jul 2-5, 2021; MWC Assembly Gathered July 6-11, 2021; MCUSA
380	Biennial Convention Jun 30-Jul 4, 2021
381	d) 2022 Gathering: Jun 29-Jul 3. (Possible Delegate Gathering Jul 1 -3), AB
382	
383	27) 2020 Next Annual Delegate Sessions:
384	a) MCBC—February 28-29
385	b) MCA—March 20-21
386	c) MC Sask—March 13-14
387	d) MCM—March 6-7
388	e) MCEC—April 24-25
389	ACTION: RC Boards to consider moving everything except MCEC up one week to avoid conflicting
390	March 21 date with MWC event in BC.
391	
392	28) Closing – Brenda Tiessen-Wiens closed with a story about image of the church as light that grows
393	as people come together, each bringing their own light.
394	
395	29) In Camera.
396	30) Debrief
397	31) Adjournment at 2:20 pm.

398 32) **Recording Secretaries:** Ken Warkentin, Garry Janzen, Tim Wiebe Neufeld.