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**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA  
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING  
June 27, 2019 – Abbotsford  
Meeting Minutes**

10 **Joint Council Present:** Calvin Quan (Moderator), Allan Hiebert (Secretary/Treasurer), Terry Stefaniuk  
11 (Moderator MCSK), Andrea De Avila (MCM), Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Moderator MCA), Betty Loewen  
12 (MCBC), Lee Dyck (Moderator MCBC), Henry Funk (MCSK), Gerald Gerbrandt (Moderator MCM), Ly Vang  
13 (MCEC)

14 **Staff Present:** Henry Paetkau (Interim EM), Tim Wiebe Neufeld (MCA), Ryan Siemens (MCSK), Ken  
15 Warkentin (MCM), David Martin (MCEC), Garry Janzen (MCBC), Doug Klassen (Executive Minister),  
16 Andrew Brown (Executive Assistant)

17 **Regrets:** Margaret Kruger-Harder (MCA), Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator), Arli Klassen (MCEC)

18 1) **Welcome:** Calvin called the meeting to order at 8:45 am and welcomed everyone here.  
19 a) Joint Council went around the table making introductions for Ly Vang, the new MCEC Joint  
20 Council member. Calvin noted regrets and supplementary financial documents for the docket.

21 2) **Opening:** Betty Loewen provided an opening focusing on curiosity, then read a prayer to open the  
22 meeting.

23 3) **MC Canada Covenant:** The covenant was reviewed, and all present joined in the Litany for MC  
24 Canada Joint Council.

25 4) **Agenda and Minutes**

- 26 a) The agenda (page 3 of docket) was approved as circulated, with the following  
27 additions/changes:  
28 i) Add the reviewing of the quarterly financial statements.  
29 ii) After the reviewing the quarterly financial statements, discuss vision and finances.  
30 b) The minutes of the April 6-7, 2019 Joint Council meeting (pages 6-16 of docket) were reviewed.

31 **CONSENSUS: The minutes of the April 6-7, 2019 Joint Council meeting were approved as circulated.**

- 32 c) The minutes of the April 10, 2019 Joint Council e-mail vote (page 17 of docket) were reviewed.

33 **CONSENSUS: The minutes of the April 10, 2019 Joint Council e-mail vote were approved as circulated.**

- 34 d) The minutes of the June 6-10, 2019 Joint Council e-mail vote (page 18 of docket) were reviewed

35 **CONSENSUS: The minutes of the June 6-10, 2019 Joint Council e-mail vote were approved as  
circulated.**

36 e) The minutes of the June 16, 2018 Delegate Gathering AGM minutes (page 19 of docket) were  
37 reviewed.

38 **CONSENSUS: The minutes of the June 16, 2018 Delegate Gathering AGM were recommended for**  
39 **approval at the Delegate Gathering as circulated.**

40 5) **Moderator report:** Calvin presented his report (page 20-21 of JC docket).

41 a) Calvin highlighted two items; excitement for the Gathering, and communications developments  
42 with the new website.

43 b) Calvin recognized and affirmed the work of Henry Paetkau in the interim Executive Minister role.  
44 He also invited prayer for Doug Klassen as he moves into the Executive Minister role.  
45

46 6) **Interim Executive Minister report:** Henry presented the staff reports

47 a) Interim Executive Minister Final Report (pages 22-25 of JC docket):

48 i) The report was reviewed.

49 ii) Henry reflected on the “Joint Council Member Best Practices” printed on the backs of the  
50 name cards in front of each Joint Council member. We need to lower our laptop screens and  
51 read these practices from time to time. He emphasized that MC Canada is both a collective  
52 of the parts (Regional Churches), and a part of these parts.

53 iii) Henry highlighted the ongoing challenges and opportunities in finances and church  
54 engagement. Staff in these areas are on contract or term positions.

55 b) There is a need to look at the lease of the Conference Build (involving MC Canada, MCM and  
56 CMU).

57 **CONSENSUS: Joint Council supports ESG exploring the renegotiating of the lease agreement for the**  
58 **Conference Building with the MC Canada Joint Council, MCM Board, and CMU’s decision-making**  
59 **bodies. It is also important to ensure that other renters in the building (MDS, Paint Box) are informed**  
60 **and engaged at some level.**

61 **ACTION: ESG is to bring updates and drafts of the MOU/lease to Joint Council for comments as**  
62 **negotiations progress, and for final approval. It is expected that this process will take a year or less.**

63 c) Board Appointments. There is a desire to define clearly how MC Canada appointments to  
64 partner organization boards are done; when are these done by the nationwide church (JC) and  
65 when by Regional Churches, how these appointments report to their appointing bodies, and do  
66 they “represent MC Canada to the board they are appointed to” or “represent the board they  
67 are appointed to MC Canada”.

68 **ACTION: Get a list of all the appointments that MC Canada has on partner organization boards and**  
69 **review these relationships. Do we have past policies that need updating? What needs to be put in**  
70 **the Joint Council Review Binder so we have a record of policies developed?**

- 71 d) What conversations do we need around Canadian Witness? Are there areas beyond Indigenous-  
72 Settle Relations that we need at the nation-side level? Discipleship programs and camping  
73 ministries – can these programs be connected or communicate with one another?  
74 e) Indigenous-Settler Relations (Steve Heinrichs, pages 26-27 of JC docket): The report was  
75 reviewed.  
76 f) Common Word (Arlyn Friesen Epp, pages 28-29 of JC docket): The report was reviewed.  
77

78 7) **Leadership Transition Update** – Doug Klassen

- 79 a) Doug provided update to the Joint Council. He has done a lot of orientation work with Henry  
80 Paetkau and EA Andrew Brown listing the ongoing work and work ahead in the Executive Office  
81 at MC Canada.  
82

83 8) **Finance Update:** - Allan Hiebert

- 84 a) **Quarterly Financial Review** (three supplementary documents, circulated by e-mail prior to  
85 meeting)  
86 i) Allan briefly reviewed the documents and invited questions. The format had been updated  
87 based on the comments at the last Joint Council meeting.  
88 b) Change of Signing Authority to **only one signature**  
89 i) Allan proposed that our policy be changed to only requiring one signature, from among the  
90 designated signing authorities, so that the bank would allow electronic bill payment and  
91 transfer of funds between chequing and savings accounts. Written internal procedures have  
92 been developed that would still require multiple sign offs before a cheque was issued.  
93

94 **CONSENSUS: That MC Canada change its policy so that we only require only one signature from**  
95 **among the appointing signing authorities for cheques and other transactions.**

96 **CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirms the work of the Financial Manager and FPAC to develop internal**  
97 **procedures that requires multiple staff to sign off for cheques and other financial transactions.**

98

99 **Morning break**

100

- 101 c) Affirm **FPAC slate** for Delegate Assembly  
102 i) Tony Schellenberg (renewal April 2020).  
103

104

104 **CONSENSUS: That Joint Council affirms the nomination of Tony Schellenberg for election as an FPAC**  
105 **member for another three-year term.**

106 **ACTION: Ed Heide will need to be replaced on FPAC next year at the 2020 AGM. Nominating**  
107 **Committee may assist.**

- 108 d) Affirm appoint of **KPMG as auditors** for FYE 2020.  
109

110 **CONSENSUS: That Joint Council recommends the appointment of KPMG as the auditors for MC**  
111 **Canada for FYE 2020.**

- 112
- 113 e) **Company of 1000** Forgivable loan program. Allan noted that concern was expressed by our  
114 auditors; was this a forgivable loan program or a grant? If it was a forgivable loan program, then  
115 we should put in place a more formal procedure to track loan status, when/whether a loan was  
116 forgiven, or when it was repaid.
- 117 f) A written recommendation to change our accounting method from the deferral accounting  
118 method to the **fund accounting method** (pages 30-31 of docket) was discussed.

119

120 **CONSENSUS: That MC Canada change its accounting method from the deferral accounting method to**  
121 **the fund accounting method.**

- 122
- 123 g) Henry Funk started a discussion around **our vision and how we plan to use our various**  
124 **internally restricted funds.**

125

126 **ACTION: In the Fall Joint Council meeting, we will revisit this conversation, what visions we have for**  
127 **2020, to go along with the Mission Consultation and Communications strategy with the website**  
128 **development. What MC Canada stories and activities do we want to bring to the RC spring AGM's as**  
129 **starting points for discussing the nationwide agenda?**

130

131 **9) Communications Strategy:**

- 132 a) Web Communications Strategy – David brought Joint Council up to date on the work in this area.  
133 The plan included developing 5 pilot congregation websites per Regional Church, with different  
134 types of congregations. Some of these could be used for camps and other organizations for the  
135 Regional Churches.
- 136 b) Discussion followed.

137

138 **10) Guidelines on making public statements, civil disobedience, use of social media – Feedback from**  
139 **staff**

- 140 a) Last meeting, Gerald and Andrea were tasked with meeting with staff to on the new Guidelines.  
141 Concern raised in the meeting for whether these policies are for only MC Canada staff, or is it  
142 also for International Witness workers? Various ways in which we engage, recognizing that  
143 these lines can be blurry: as an individual, as a staff member, as an organization

144 **ACTION: We will revisit our policy and take into consideration the feedback from staff. Gerald and Arli**  
145 **will look at this at the October meeting and bring a revised copy to Joint Council in January. We will**  
146 **also let the MC Canada staff know that this is being revisited.**

147 **Lunch Break**

148 **11) Canadian Mennonite – Every Home Plan**

149 a) There was a discussion about the Canadian Mennonite Every Home Plan renewal. This has been  
150 renewed on a year to year basis as MC Canada is developing a communications strategy.

151 **ACTION: ESG to meet about our relationship with CM and the EHP in September with plans to bring a**  
152 **recommendation to the next Joint Council meeting in October for further discussion. Moderators will**  
153 **come to the October Joint Council meeting with approval to extend the EHP for one more year (2020).**  
154 **At the January 2020 Joint Council meeting in Ontario, there will be opportunity to meet with Canadian**  
155 **Mennonite face-to-face.**

## 156 **12) Gathering Preparation**

### 157 **a) Registration.**

158 i) There are 84 MC Canada delegates registered for the Gathering

159 (1) MCEC – 25

160 (2) MCM – 17

161 (3) MCSK – 14

162 (4) MCA – 13

163 (5) MCBC – 15

164 ii) 42 members required for quorum

### 165 **b) Nomination Committee**

166 (1) The recommended members for the nomination committee are MCEC – Gladys Bender,

167 MCM – Eric Rempel, MCSK – Anna Rehan, MCA – Marguerite Jack, and MCBC –

168 Waldimar Neufeld.

169 **CONSENSUS: Members of the Nominating Committee are recommended for renewal for a three-year**  
170 **term until the next Gathering in 2022.**

171 **CONSENSUS: Nominating Committee has confirmed the renewal of the terms until the next Gathering**  
172 **planned for 2022 for the roles of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Secretary Treasurer.**

### 173 **c) Parliamentarian**

174 **CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmation Ed Janzen to act as Parliamentarian at the Delegate Assembly.**

### 175 **d) Recording Secretary**

176 **CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmed that Ken Warkentin will act as Recording Secretary for the AGM.**

### 177 **e) Listening Committee**

178 i) The nominated members for the Listening Committee are Max Kennel (MCEC), Rachel

179 Siemens (MCM), and Ruth Friesen (MCA).

180 **CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmed the members of the Listening Committee as listed.**

### 181 **f) Resolutions Committee**

- 182 i) The recommended members for the Resolutions Committee are Josh Wallace (MC Sask),  
183 Darnell Barkman (MCBC), and Monica Bock (MCM).

184 **CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmed the members of the Resolution Committee as listed.**

185 **g) Table Exhibitors**

- 186 i) MC Canada does not have a policy on how to vet applications for table display exhibitors

187 **ACTION: For future Gatherings, Joint Council will have to develop a policy for how to vet applications**  
188 **for the table display exhibitors.**

189 **h) 2022 Delegate Gathering – Date and Location**

- 190 i) MCA will host the 2022 Delegate Gathering in July of 2022. A discussion of when in July to  
191 have the Gathering was begun. Further discussion needed.

192 **i) 2020 Study Conference – Date and Location**

- 193 i) To be hosted in MCEC in November 2020. Ryan and Gerald to lead an ad hoc committee, to  
194 be convened by Doug.

195 **j) Seating**

- 196 i) Joint Council and ESG will be spread out throughout during the delegate session. Joint  
197 Council will ask their delegates to spread out as well. Also mixing of delegates and non-  
198 delegates.

199 **k) Feedback**

- 200 i) Email will be sent to all attendees for feedback on the Gathering  
201

202 **13) MWC Youth Summit Application Process (page 33-34 of docket)**

- 203 a) The draft application form, used for selecting a representative from each Regional Church and  
204 then choosing our one delegate, was reviewed. Five delegates will be sent to the summit, but  
205 only one will be MC Canada's official delegate have voting ability. MWC would like us to have  
206 selected our delegate by January 2020.  
207

208 **CONSENSUS: Every Regional Church will select one delegate, from which MC Canada will select one to**  
209 **represent MC Canada. The costs of the application to the GYS, MWC, vaccination and travel costs of**  
210 **all five delegates will be covered through Mennonite Church Canada up to \$5000 per person.**

211  
212 **ACTION: Andrea will reach out to Katie Doke Sawatzky to get these applications out in the next two**  
213 **weeks. Applications are due October 31, 2019.**

214  
215 **CONSENSUS: Rather than Joint Council, the ESG will make the decision on selecting the one MC**  
216 **Canada delegate for the GYS, and submitting this by January 2020.**

217  
218 **Afternoon Break**

219  
220 **14) Regional Church Reporting**

- 221 a) MCBC – Lee Dyck presented her report
- 222 b) MCA – Brenda Tiessen-Wiens presented her report
- 223 c) MCSK – Terry Stefaniuk presented his report
- 224 d) MCM – Gerald Gerbrandt presented his report
- 225 e) MCEC – Prepared by Arli Klassen, but presented by David Martin

226

227 **15) Next Meeting**

- 228 a) Joint Council – Monday, July 1, 2019 in Abbotsford, BC
- 229 b) Joint Council – Fall Meeting, Oct 5-6, 2019 in Winnipeg, MB
- 230 c) Joint Council January 2020 – Ontario
- 231 i) Suggestion to meet in Kitchener at 50 Kent, rather than Toronto to reduce costs, provide
- 232 opportunity for billeting and church attendance.

233

234 **16) Closing – lead by Terry Stefaniuk**

235

236 **17) In Camera with Henry and Doug**

237

238 **18) In Camera – just Joint Council**

239

240 **19) Adjournment at 4:40 pm.**

241 **Recording Secretaries:** Andrew Brown