

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA  
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING  
July 1, 2019 – Abbotsford  
Meeting Minutes**

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

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

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

1) **Welcome:** Calvin called the meeting to order at 12:03 and welcomed everyone here.

2) **Opening:** Allan Hiebert provided an opening focusing on the ministry of reconciliation, reading 2 Corinthians 5:15-21.

3) **Gathering Debrief:**

a) **Open actions from Delegate Gathering**

- i) There was a discussion around the presentation of Joint Council actions. Did the delegates understand the purpose of the actions list, and why the motion was required? How did we expect the delegates to engage?
- ii) The main discussion was around the policy "On Speaking Publicly and On Individual Acts of Conscientious Civil Disobedience".

**ACTION:** Integrate the policy "On Speaking Publicly and On Individual Acts of Conscientious Civil Disobedience" into the MC Canada Personnel Policy, once it is finalized.

**ACTION:** Develop a clearer policy around how to present the list of action to delegates

**CONSENSUS:** Review the Civil Disobedience Policy draft at each Regional Church board with discussion/feedback forwarded to Gerald and Arli. Gerald and Arli will then review the Policy with the discussions that were had among those at the Regional level. They will have an updated draft for review by JC at the January 2020 meeting.

b) **Open actions from Resolutions Committee** - No open actions noted.

c) **Open actions from Listening Committee**

**ACTION:** MC Canada Communications Officer will condense/consolidate the notes that were taken from the table conversation. Joint Council will review before putting a document on the MC Canada website.

d) **Feedback from Participants**

**ACTION: MC Canada Communications Officer will collect all feedback from the participants using an on-line survey. Summary to be made available to JC.**

e) **Feedback on LGBTQ+, Friends, Family event.**

- i) It was noted that some attending still see a need for reconciliation between the church and the LGBTQ community within the church. A discussion was held on how to bring about this reconciliation, and on how to work more closely with / inclusively with those in the LGBTQ+ community.

f) **Gathering Feedback**

- i) Some comments were noted by Joint Council members:
  - (1) Concern about the carbon footprint of these gatherings in general.
  - (2) Concern about the financial cost of the Gathering
  - (3) Desire for more conversation and engagement
  - (4) Appreciation for flexibility on Gathering meeting in three years, giving space for the MWC. Others who expressed the opposite feeling because not many Canadians would be attending MWC in 2021 in Indonesia.
  - (5) Comments about a positive spirit at the Gathering.
  - (6) Logistics and communication could have been clearer.

**ACTION: Put together a checklist and guide for all of the details needed for next Gathering planning. Coordinate the tasks and reflection of the work of Communications Officer, Event Planner, and others directly involved planning the Gathering. Define the roles/responsibilities of the Event Planner and Communications Officer.**

- (7) 300 registrants; 400 people on Sunday.
- (8) Sunday morning was way too long for people who are just coming for the worship. Need some free time around so people from local congregations have opportunity to connect with others from across country.
- (9) Keynote speaker was understandable and practical.

4) **Continuation Costs for Friedenhaus Ludwigshafen Partner Program.**

**CONSENSUS: That we use funds from the internally restricted church building fund (0-000-2601) to pay for a two year commitment to our partner program Friedenhaus Ludwigshafen to the amount of \$22,000 for FYE2020 and \$11,000 for FYE2021.**

5) **Joint Council Meeting in Winnipeg October 2019**

- a) Gerald outlined some plans for church visitations at our next JC meeting, and there was a brief discussion of other logistics.

78 **6) Farewell to Henry Paetkau**

79 a) Joint Council expressed gratitude for Henry Paetkau and his work

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81 **7) Closing – Andrea**

82 a) Andrea reflected on a bible study she had led and making a mistake in understanding the  
83 context of a scripture passage. Making mistakes is part of our life together and should not stop  
84 us from engaging in study leadership if we are open to the correction of others.

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86 **8) In Camera**

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88 **9) Adjournment at 2:40 pm.**

89 **Recording Secretaries:** Andrew Brown