

1 **MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

2 **JOINT COUNCIL MEETING**

3 **June 27, 2020**

4 **ZOOM**

5 **Session 1 (11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon CST)**

6 **Session 2 (1:30 pm – 4:00 PM CST)**

7 **Meeting Minutes**

8
9 **Joint Council Present:** Calvin Quan (Moderator), Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator), Allan Hiebert
10 (Secretary/Treasurer), Terry Stefaniuk (Moderator MCSK), Gerald Gerbrandt (Moderator MCM), Andrea
11 De Avila (MCM), Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Moderator MCA), Margaret Kruger Harder (MCA), Gerry Grunau
12 (Moderator MCBC), Betty Loewen (MCBC), Arli Klassen (Moderator, MCEC), Ly Vang (MCEC) Henry Funk
13 (MCSK)

14 **Staff Present:** Tim Wiebe Neufeld (MCA), Ken Warkentin & Rick Neufeld (MCM), David Martin (MCEC),
15 Garry Janzen (MCBC), Doug Klassen (Executive Minister); Kathy Fast (Exec. Assistant)

16 **Regrets:** Ryan Siemens (MCSK)
17

18 **Session 1**

- 19 1) **Welcome:** Calvin called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM (CST) and welcomed everyone, reviewing
20 instructions on how the three separate sessions will work.
21
22 2) **Opening:** Andrea De Avila led a reflection on holding each and everyone's story, fully listening across
23 cultures and races referencing the recent Black Lives Matter and her own experiences. A lament
24 written by Clara Wainbright was read as a prayer
25
26 3) **MC Canada Covenant Litany:** The MC Canada Covenant Litany was read with all Joint Council and
27 ESG members present participating.
28
29 4) **Agenda and Minutes**
30 a) Agenda Review - trading Building Repair costs – Move # 8 – May financials to # 10
31 b) **Joint Council May 23, 2020** (pp 6-10 of docket)
32 Arli Klassen stated a **Conflict of Interest**, as she is a contract worker with Canadian Mennonite
33 (referencing agenda item #10)
34

35 **CONSENSUS: The minutes of the May 23, 2020 Joint Council meeting were approved as circulated with**
36 **two amendments.**
37

38 **5) Executive Minister's Report** (pp 11-12 of docket)

- 39 a) Doug highlighted the follow from his report:
40 i) reopened the office for staff
41 ii) CommonWord – discussions have been held with CMU about reopening, set for August 17.
42 There has been a loss in revenue due to loss of customers.
43 iii) Worship services have been organized with congregations across Canada and will continue
44 throughout the summer months.
45 iv) Shared Revenue agreement will be worked on over the summer, with all regions using the
46 same reporting format by September.

47 v) Website work with Barefoot Creative has been somewhat delayed, but the CRM -
48 Constituency Relationship Management, (which tracks donations and donor relations) will
49 be up by mid July

50 b) No Discussion

51

52 **6) Conference Building Roof repair/replacement and HVAC replacement/upgrade**

53 a) Engineering drawings were completed.

54 b) Quotes from contractors were obtained this past week

55 c) Eric Friesen (contractor) will meet with the contractors on Monday. We can anticipate a firm
56 number by next week.

57 d) Allan shared a capital budget, listing costs to dates and estimates. He is proposing a capital
58 budget for FYE 2021 of \$270,000, to be taken from the Capital Reserve. The budget includes a
59 contingency amount of \$18,000. It is possible that final negotiations may lower the costs

60 i) Question regarding insurance: The Roofing companies are insured for potential damage
61 during the period in which repairs are being done.

62

63 **CONSENSUS: That we approve the capital budget as presented and that this will be added into the**
64 **final budget at the AGM.**

65

66 **7) AGM Preparation/Review**

67 a) **Agenda** – as outlined in docket: a) approve audited financial statements, b) approve the budget,
68 c) the auditor, and d) the slate of nominees.

69 b) **Process** Calvin – Confirmed that slate of delegates for the AGM, noting there will be a roll call.
70 Clarification was provided on voting process, by waving of hand.

71 c) **AGM Package** (pp 20-45 of docket) – identical to what was presented at the May meeting, with
72 the addition of the Capital Budget expenditure and list of motions.

73

74 **Adjournment for AGM**

75 **AGM minutes under separate document**

76

77 **Session 2:**

78 **8) Review of AGM**

79 a) Appreciation was expressed for Allan’s proficient presentation on finances.

80 b) Suggestions for future AGMs (in smaller non-Gathering years)

81 i) Open with devotions/reflection – could also invite others outside of Joint Council

82 ii) Have Exec. Minister provide a short (5 min) overview of MC Canada’s work, with an opening
83 for questions which can be directed to him.

84 iii) include stories of work being done (narrative) within the financial presentation

85 iv) In opening ensure an invitation for questions and input – creating more of a relational event
86 rather than just formal business.

87 v) ensure invitation that goes out nuances the AGM more as an event

88 vi) ensure participants are aware that the AGM is being recorded

89

90 **9) Finance** (pp 13-19 of docket)

91 a) **May Financial Statements** were presented by Allan Hiebert
92 Sean's commentary which was included with the report was referenced. It was noted that next
93 to no money has been forwarded from MCM, though they are currently in a period of transition.
94 No discussion.

95

96 **10) Communications** (pp 46-52 of docket)

97 a) **Canadian Mennonite Covenant Renewal**

98 i) The covenant (2014) has been revamped, incorporating recommendations by Joint Council,
99 editorial vision which includes building up the body, other outside organizations use of
100 magazine, & funding formula

101 ii) There was a recommendation to shift the partnership from 7 to 2 way partnership,
102 however, regions have not had time for discernment of this item.

103 iii) Discussion:

104 (1) Feedback from one Regional Church board was that 1/3 of the board members were
105 hesitant in moving ahead with the covenant; the reason being primarily that the
106 magazine wasn't being read by their people groups (new Canadians) and youth. A shift
107 being suggested is that people of color write articles, not just about them.

108 (2) Important to include subscription rates within the covenant and anticipated costs after
109 conversation with Canadian Mennonite for next Council meeting in October.

110 (3) If partnership agreement shifts from Regional Churches to MC Canada, concern
111 expressed about how this is inconsistent with the overall direction of getting closer to
112 the churches.

113

114 **ACTION: Continue conversation with Canadian Mennonite, including affirmations and concerns listed**
115 **above. Review next draft with regional churches and ESG, final document to come to October Joint**
116 **Council meeting.**

117

118 **11) Community of Spiritual Leadership Recommendation** (pp 53-54 of docket)

119 a) Tim gave background (emerging from FDTF) with goal of this group to ensure leadership
120 development, equipping and empowering as well as a place for ensuring study, resourcing,
121 encouragement and discernment of issues facing the church. Accountability, credentialing, and
122 ensuring Anabaptist identity would also sit with CoSL.

123 b) Discussion:

124 i) concern expressed about putting more work on the shoulders of CLM/ESG.

125 ii) Should be seen more as a coordinating group.

126 iii) Ensure that leadership comes from within the regions, with good regional interaction to
127 build nationwide interaction.

128 iv) Suggestion to include Church educators and chaplains along with pastors.

129 v) Issues identified should come from the 'bottom up', with a smaller leadership group to
130 discern and administrate it.

131 vi) Ensure awareness of diversity and inter-cultural participation. (age/gender/culture).

132

133 **CONSENSUS: Move ahead with developing the proposal, keeping the above in mind.**

134

- 135 **12) Diversity and Intercultural Awareness recommendation** (pp 55-56 of docket)
- 136 a) The recommendation begins with a recognition that Diversity and Intercultural Awareness was
- 137 seen as a high priority by the Future Directions Task Force, but with restructuring this agenda
- 138 fell off the table.
- 139 b) The recommendation calls for a building of a stronger sense of family within MC Canada, being
- 140 inter-cultural, building relationships between cultural groups within the church, provide training,
- 141 hold audits and develop policy that support diversity.
- 142 c) Discussion:
- 143 i) Affirmation of the move towards further depth in this work, desire for action beyond
- 144 training, but training also needed and importance of ensuring people of diverse
- 145 backgrounds be involved.
- 146 ii) Urgency in and importance of this agenda was expressed, with recommendation to continue
- 147 to work at the proposal to ensure an audit committee be set to identify current situation
- 148 and to hold us accountable to our actions.
- 149 iii) Importance of looking at race as well as cultural differences, power imbalances, naming
- 150 disadvantaged/marginalized groups. Goal to engage intentionally and deeply.
- 151 iv) Getting 3rd party input could be helpful.
- 152 d) *Resources by MC USA for further reading:*
- 153 <http://mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/undoing-racism/intercultural-development-inventory/>
- 154
- 155 **13) Delegate Gathering 2022 recommendation** (pp 57-59 of docket)
- 156 a) Background given on how we used to do delegate sessions and how decisions were made and
- 157 an outline of current plan, ensuring congregational and regional involvement in shaping
- 158 delegate gathering.
- 159 b) There was general support of the recommendation.
- 160
- 161 **14) Future meetings:**
- 162 a) September 26th, 11AM (CST) ZOOM
- 163 b) October 31, 11AM (CST) ZOOM
- 164 c) January 23-24 in Vancouver
- 165
- 166 **15) Closing led** by Geraldine Balzer. Focus on hope being more than wishful thinking, indicating action
- 167 and resistance, something we actually do. Our faith leads us to understand our responsibilities.
- 168
- 169 **16) Prayers** were shared for David Martin and Ken Warkentin who are both completing their work, along
- 170 with well wishes in their future directions.
- 171
- 172 **17) In-camera session**
- 173
- 174 **18) Adjournment** at 4:00 pm Central.