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Mennonite Church Canada
Delegate Gathering and Annual General Meeting
Edmonton, AB, July 30th and August 1st, 2022
Final Approved Minutes

Please note that these minutes will refer to information provided and page numbers in the digital Report Book found on CommonWord website: <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/25677>
The Report Book addendum can be found at: <https://www.commonword.ca>

Abbreviations:

MC Can - Mennonite Church Canada
MCEC - Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
MCM - Mennonite Church Manitoba
MC Sask - Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
MCA - Mennonite Church Alberta
MCBC - Mennonite Church British Columbia
FPAC – Financial Policy and Audit Committee

Present:

From MCBC as delegates: Henry Krause, Mary Barg, Gerry Grunau, Betty Loewen, Darnell Barkman, Veronica Dyck, Ian Funk, Jesse Nickel, Sam Bonner, Jorge Hoajaca, Susan Nickel, Justin Sun, Trevor Renshaw, Allen Harder
From MCA as delegates: Brenda Tiessen-Wiens, Elizabeth Wall, Leng Thang, Wayne Janz, David (Vince) Friesen, Coreen Froese, Don Baergen, Reuben Tut, Mezgebu Tucho, Anna-Lisa Salo, Elijah Koop, Bill Christieson
From MC Sask as delegates: Sharon Schultz, Pauline Steinman, Andrea Enns-Gooding, Gordon Peters, Glenn Sawatzky, Emily Summach, Len Rempel, Rodney Hennessy, Mark Bigland Pritchard, Lisa Martens Bartel, Nancy Epp, Gord Siemens, Joe Heikman
From MCM as delegates: Gerald Gerbrandt, Don Rempel Boschman, Evelyn Rempel Petkau, Andrea Hildebrand, Andrea DeAvila, Timothy Wenger, Jose-Luis Moraga, Lee Hiebert, Kennedy Froese, David Driedger, Andrew Wiens, Julia Thiessen. Nadya Langelotz, Leni Lousier, Colleen Edmunds, Matthew Froese, Marta Bunnet Wiebe
From MCEC as delegates: Ben Cassels, Arli Klassen, Steph Chandler Burns, Diane Lichti, Gladys Bender, John David (JD) Penner, Leah Reesor Keller, Fanosie Legesse, Yoel Masyawong, Joseph Raltong, Alissa Bender, Mesfin Woldearegay, Kendall Jongejan Harder, Hyejung Jessie Yum, Roberson Mbayamvula, Merveille Mwankin, Henry Jonnalagadda, Melanie Jonnalagadda, Gordon Driedger, Anneli Loepp Thiessen, Nicole Pelletier, Marlene Toews Janzen, Mariko Ogasawara, Lorena Diller Harder
Elected Officers: Calvin Quan (Moderator), Allan Hiebert (Secretary/Treasurer), Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator)

MINUTES

1. Calvin Quan (Moderator) **called the meeting to order** at 1:00 pm Mountain Time, July 30th, and declared the sessions open. He thanked Mennonite Church Alberta for hosting the Gathering.
2. In his **opening remarks**, Calvin reviewed and discussed the purpose of delegate Gatherings according to the MC Canada bylaws.
 - a. Our nationwide gathering brings together the five Regional Churches who make up and call us to be together as Mennonite Church Canada. On page 91 of the Report Book, you will find a copy of our signed covenant that represents the hopes & aspirations we share, and commitments we make to each other as Regional Churches.
 - b. In keeping with our bylaws, we gather this weekend, for the formal work of MC Canada:
 - i. To Receive written reports
 - ii. To Act on the slate of nominees for elected positions
 - iii. To Act on another other important business

- 51 c. For example, we will have Table conversations for you to reflect on what is presented. We will also
 52 have Table reporting when we invite Delegates to speak and receive written notes of conversations
 53 from all Tables—whether you are a delegate or not.
- 54 d. The theme of Gathering 2022 is We Declare – What we have seen and heard. So, whether you are
 55 joining in person, or online:
- 56 i. We gather to **share** faith stories that inspire the mission of the church.
 57 ii. We gather to **build** the ministry and mission of the church locally, regionally, nationally, and
 58 internationally.
 59 iii. We gather to **nurture** faith and fellowship.
 60 iv. We gather to **strengthen** a nationwide Anabaptist Mennonite identity.
- 61
- 62 3. **Greetings and Introductions:** Calvin invited Doug Klassen, Executive Minister, to introduce guests and
 63 partners from the border church to bring us greetings.
- 64 a. **Glenn Guyton, MC USA Executive Minister.** Acknowledged our long history together and
 65 partnership in the Joint Exec Committee, Menno Media, Common Read, Ministerial Guidelines and
 66 Conduct Policies, AMBS, and North American contingent at MWC. “We are all better together.”
- 67 b. **Arli Klassen, Mennonite World Conference.** Gerald Hildebrandt is at the MB assembly in the US.
 68 Financial gifts from MC Canada are appreciated: Donation for Covid Fund, Assembly Fund, and Fair
 69 Share Fees. MC Canada is one of 107 countries with 31 Canadians in Indonesia. Name change
 70 proposal to Anabaptist Mennonite World Communion to be processed at the next MWC gathering.
- 71 c. **Rick Cober Bauman, Mennonite Central Committee Canada** It has been a tough year with hunger,
 72 violence, and indigenous injustices highlighted in unmarked graves. We give thanks for generosity
 73 through time, finances, prayers, and service.
- 74 d. **Clara Flores, Mennonite Disaster Services Canada** Partnership shows that most volunteers have a
 75 faith background. During Covid, the Spirit of MDS Fund grant assisted churches in their outreach
 76 ministries.
- 77 e. **Other Partners:** Calvin welcomed guests from our partner organizations and networks joining us
 78 here in person. Each highlights the reach and scope of MC Canada’s ministry and relationships in
 79 ways we cannot achieve on our own. They do this on behalf of congregations and Regional
 80 Churches, in ministry and mission across the street and around the world.
- 81 i. **Don Neufeld, Mennonite Men**
 82 ii. **Esther Kern, Community Peacemaker Teams**
 83 iii. **Ginny Hostetler, Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service**
 84 iv. **Amy Gingerich, Menno Media**
 85 v. **Joanne Moyer, Mennonite Creation Care Network**
 86 vi. **Byron Rempel Burkholder, Palestine/Israel Network**
 87 vii. **Shannon Neufeldt, Kairos Canada**
 88 viii. **Pieter Niemeyer, In This Together.**
- 89 f. **Joint Council:** Calvin introduced the members of Joint Council, MC Canada’s governing board, by
 90 name with each standing as their name was called.
- 91 g. **Executive Ministers Group:** Calvin introduced the Executive Ministers of the Regional Churches that
 92 together form MC Canada.
- 93 h. **MC Canada Staff:** The staff of MC Canada was introduced, with their staff roles given.
- 94
- 95 4. **Quorum and Process**
- 96 a. Calvin reviewed the bylaws items regarding quorum and indicated that 81 of the possible 83 delegates
 97 were in attendance. He, therefore, declared that a quorum of delegates was present.
- 98 b. The total number of delegates, participants, volunteers, and staff in person was 260. 325 people,
 99 including those attending online, had signed up for the online sessions.
- 100 c. The members of the resolutions committee were introduced as appointed by Joint Council: Vince

- 101 Friesen (MCA), Darnell Barkman (MCBC), and Kendall Jongejan Harder (MCEC). The tasks of the
102 Resolution Committee are to (a) Prepare procedure resolutions, (b) Formulate motions (and
103 amendments) when asked by the delegate body or moderator, and (c) receive resolutions from
104 delegates and ensure they are clear and appropriate.
- 105 d. The members of the Listening Committee were introduced: Hyejung Jessie Yum (MCEC), Len Rempel
106 (MC Sask), and Kennedy Froese, (MCM). The Listening Committee is available to record comments and
107 feedback and will be collecting and compiling the table group discussion reports.
- 108 e. The Parliamentarian for Gathering 2022 will be J.D. Penner. Calvin invited J.D. to the front to remind
109 delegates how we work together.
- 110 i. As members of the Body of Christ – we want to conduct ourselves throughout our
111 Gathering. To begin, we engage our times of discernment and interactions in a Spirit of
112 Unity as Christ taught us, relating with one another with respect, patience, compassion,
113 kindness, humility, gentleness, and forbearance; being thankful for the gifts each person
114 brings to this Gathering.
- 115 ii. As a people called to discern what God calls us to, together we do this through prayer,
116 scripture reading, sharing information, silence, thought-provoking presentations, feedback,
117 small and large group discussions, and individual expression and decisions. And in all ways,
118 we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- 119 iii. To further guide our process, we utilize (a) the Guidelines for Presenting and Processing
120 Resolutions, (b) Operating By-laws, and (c) Roberts Rules.
- 121 iv. When engaged in an open mic forum, we ask that you respect the following:
- 122 1. Speak to the whole delegate body, not to individuals.
- 123 2. Comments should be respectful and gracious.
- 124 3. Keep your comments to a maximum of 2 minutes (allowing others an opportunity)
- 125 4. To enable as many people as possible to speak, we would ask that you pay
126 attention to how often you decide to speak. Roberts Rules specify that if you have
127 spoken on an issue, you may not speak again if others are waiting to speak.
- 128 5. Please refrain from applauding in ways that show preference.
- 129 v. In terms of voting, as per Mennonite Church Canada’s Operating By-Law, the business of a
130 Delegate Gathering may be conducted:
- 131 1. by consensus, without a formal vote.
- 132 2. by a show of hands, at the discretion of the chairperson of the Delegate Gathering
- 133 3. or on the request of a voting delegate; or by ballot vote when directed by the
134 chairperson of the Delegate Gathering, or when a motion to require a ballot vote is
135 passed by a majority of votes cast on such motion.
- 136 f. Calvin highlighted the diversity represented in the delegates chosen. Only delegates have floor
137 privileges to speak to resolutions or to vote.
- 138

139 **5. Minutes of the 2019 Delegate Gathering and AGM in Abbotsford**

- 140 a. Full minutes of the 2019 Delegate Gathering in Abbotsford were included in the Report Book (p.99)
141 distributed to delegates and participants prior to the Gathering.

142
143 **Moved by Joint Council “That we accept the minutes of the Delegate Gathering (AGM) held on June 28 to July**
144 **1, 2019, as circulated.” Carried.**

145
146 **6. Minutes of the 2020 Delegate Gathering and AGM (Report Book Addendum p. 2)**

- 147 a. Full minutes of the 2020 Delegate Gathering, held via Zoom, were distributed to delegates and
148 participants prior to the Gathering.

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Moved by Joint Council “That the Delegate Gathering accept the minutes of the Mennonite Church Canada 2020 Delegate Gathering and AGM as circulated.” Carried.

7. Minutes of the 2021 Delegate Gathering and AGM (Report Book Addendum p. 4)

- a. Full minutes of the 2021 Delegate Gathering and AGM, held via Zoom, was distributed to delegates and participants prior to the Gathering.

Moved by Joint Council “That the Delegate Gathering accept the minutes of the Mennonite Church Canada 2021 Delegate Gathering and Annual General Meeting as circulated.” Carried.

8. Actions of the General Board and Joint Council since Delegate Gathering 2019 (p. 104-108)

a. Questions:

- i. Action on January 25, 2020 “That Joint Council approves the adoption of the policies on Speaking Publicly and Acts of Civil Disobedience.” In current conversations, nationwide priorities (i.e., climate action), actions of leaders, and even references made today by our speaker Cheryl Bear, what is the commentary from leadership on how they see this policy? Response: Following this discussion on this topic at Gathering 2019, a document was drafted by two Joint Council members. The policy is an effort to give space for a staff person to engage in civil disobedience as an individual while being clear that their actions do not represent the church. We are a church that values community discernment regarding attempts to engage in civil disobedience, and one should only speak on behalf of the church after such discernment is complete. The intent of the policy is to guide the staff of MC Canada. The policy does not guide constituents. Staff or leaders, carry a hat that cannot be taken off and represents the church/denomination. If constituents want staff to engage in something it must be decided here at a Gathering. There are times when, as a church, we need to take radical action and we can inspire people. There is room for that. Joint Council asks for grace and prayers as we wrestle with this topic.
- ii. Action: April 9, 2022 “That a podcast, produced and owned by MC Canada, be withdrawn from CommonWord and public circulation at the request of the author, but be kept in the MHA archives under restriction”. Response: An Indigenous leader who spoke on the podcast changed his view and asked for his content to be removed so that it did not appear to the public.

Moved by Joint Council “That the Delegate Gathering approve all actions taken by the Joint Council from June 27, 2019, to June 8, 2022.” Carried.

9. Nominations

- a. Calvin introduced the Nominations Committee with thanks for their hard work on behalf of the church: Gladys Bender (MCEC), Marguerite Jack (MCA), Waldo Neufeld (MCBC), Randy Hildebrand (MCM) – completing the term for Eric Rempel, Terry Stefaniuk (MC Sask) – completing the term for Anna Rehan. Calvin called Marguerite Jack to come forward to present the slate of nominations.
- b. Marguerite reported a full slate for Executive Committee: (p. 110) The Nomination Committee considered age, ethnicity, gender, experience, and suitability when nominating candidates. In keeping with our bylaws 14.2 and 15.1, a request for other nominations was sent prior to our Gathering in the Nominating Committee Report. As no new nominations were as of 9:00 am MDT this morning, nominations are now closed.
- c. MC Canada Executive officers for 2022-2024 are:
 - i. Moderator – Geraldine Balzer (MC Sask)
 - ii. Assistant Moderator – Bruce Baergen (MCA)
 - iii. Secretary-Treasurer – Paul Gilbert (MCEC)

- 199 d. The nominations for the 2022-2024 Nominations Committee are:
200 i. Gladys Bender (MCEC), Incumbent, eligible for renewal
201 ii. Randy Hildebrand (MCM)
202 iii. Allen Harder (MCBC)
203 iv. Joanie Neufeldt (MCA)
204 v. Vacant (MC Sask)
205 e. Calvin reported that, in keeping with our bylaws (28.1), Joint Council has nominated Tony
206 Schellenberg to renew his term to serve on the Financial Policy and Audit Committee.
207 f. Votes to affirm the nominated persons will be held during our Monday Delegate Session.
208 g. Calvin thanked the Nominations Committee for their work.
209

210 **10. Executive Minister Report (Pages 7-8 of the Report Book)** Calvin invited Doug Klassen to give his Executive
211 Minister's Report.

- 212 a. In addition to his report, Doug reflected on what he has learned since beginning in this role just
213 prior to Gathering 2019. He expressed continued joy and enthusiasm in this role and at times
214 questioned its sustainability. Following the transition of 2017, there were significant operational
215 questions around authority and responsibility and the need for revised policies. The Joint Council
216 produced the Operating Agreement which clarifies more direct lines of authority. An organizational
217 chart representing our beautifully complicated structure is forthcoming. Guided by Allan Hiebert,
218 the SRA was also agreed upon by Joint Council and is going to Regional Church boards for approval
219 this fall. Giving nationwide leadership requires preparation well ahead to provide time for visioning
220 and decision-building from the ground up. The work of each staff member was acknowledged.
221 b. Calvin thanked Doug for his report and indicated that some table group discussion time would allow
222 for questions and comments on the report.
223

224 **11. Financial Report**

- 225 a. Calvin invited Allan Hiebert, Secretary/Treasurer of Joint Council, forward to present the Financial
226 Statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022, and other matters.
227 b. Allan asked if there were any questions on the Secretary/Treasurer report, given on page 55 of the
228 Report Book. No questions.
229

230 **12. FYE 2019 Financial Statements**

- 231 a. Allan gave a brief discussion of the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending January
232 31, 2022, (p. 62-83). For clarity, the actual income and expenditures in the Operating Budget are
233 given on pages 83-86.
234 i. Independent Auditor's Report – KPMG (pages 1-3 of statements) "present fairly, in all
235 material respects, the financial position of the Entity as of January 31, 2022" Not-for-profit
236 Accounting Standards with "fund method" of accounting was used.
237 ii. MC Canada had a surplus on the operating budget for FYE 2022 of \$43,653, as the revenue of
238 two regions was higher than the budget which was offset by one region with reduced
239 contributions. Expenses were slightly higher than budget.
240 iii. In accordance with the Surplus Allocation policy (adopted by Joint Council in Nov. 2020),
241 \$13,421 was added to the General Reserve fund, \$15,116 to the General Capital reserve fund,
242 and \$15,116 was returned to the Regional Churches.
243 iv. Allan reviewed the Fund balances: Bequest (General, Formation, Witness), Missional
244 Initiatives, ISR, Company of 1000, Church Building Fund, and Endowments.
245 b. Questions:
246 i. There is a lot of information and it's easy to get overwhelmed. Is there an easier way to
247 present this information? Response: The formal Financial Statements need to follow the
248 accounting rules and principles for not-for-profit entities. The results for the Operating budget

249 were included after the formal statements, as these show more simply where the money
250 comes from and where it goes.

- 251 ii. On Pg. 86, schedule 7 the Rent and Cams Budget is \$12,000 budget and \$20,527 has been
252 spent year to date. What is the variance in the rent costs? Response: Part of the difference
253 reflects the difference in the maintenance fees we pay to CMU, where the increase was not
254 known at budgeting time. But Allan was not completely sure of all the details.
255

256 **Moved by Joint Council, “That the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022, be**
257 **accepted as presented.” Carried.**
258

259 **13. Approval of Bylaw Change to move the fiscal year-end.**

- 260 a. Allan outlined the reasons for moving the fiscal year end from January 31 to March 31 as outlined
261 in Secretary/Treasurers’ report (p. 55).
262 b. It was noted that the numbers in the budget seem to have a considerable jump from last year, but
263 remember the presented budget is for 14 months instead of 12 months.
264

265 **Moved by Joint Council: “That the Mennonite Church Canada General Operating By-law be amended by**
266 **changing “PART XI – Operational Matters”, clause 31 “Fiscal Year” to read as follows: 31.1 MC Canada’s fiscal**
267 **year shall end on the 31st day of March in each calendar year.” Carried.**
268

- 269 14. **Appointment of Auditors:** Allan noted that our bylaws require us to appoint auditors for the next fiscal year
270 at our AGM. The Financial Policy and Audit Committee review the work of the auditors after each audit and
271 recommend that we continue with KPMG for the next fiscal year.
272

273 **Moved by Joint Council, “That KPMG LLP be appointed as auditors of Mennonite Church Canada for the fiscal**
274 **year ending in 2023”. Motion approved by a show of hands.**
275

276 15. **Budget Presentation** The budget, developed by staff and recommended by Joint Council, for the FYE 2023
277 (14 months) is given on pages 87-89 of the Report Book

- 278 a. Allan reviewed, in general, the sources of revenue: Regional Church contributions (55%), Relational
279 Witness Donations (18%) Bequests (11%), and Fees/Self-Generated (16%) presented as a pie chart.
280 b. Allan reviewed, in general, the areas of expenditures: International Witness (34%,
281 Communication/CM (11%), ISR (6%), Memberships (5%), Leadership Formation/CommonWord (11%),
282 Joint Council/Executive Office (14%), Support Services/Occupancy - including
283 Pension/benefits/accounting (19%)
284 c. Questions
285 i. The contributions to MWC went from \$35,000 to \$90,000. Why? Response: MWC anticipated a
286 large revenue shortfall with the Assembly in Indonesia due to ongoing COVID uncertainty. The
287 planners asked for help so they could cover fixed expenses. This was separate from the MWC
288 COVID relief fund from two years ago.
289 ii. Where is the funding for the Climate Action position? Response: This will be a fund budget from
290 the Missional Initiatives Fund which will be presented next.
291 d. Allan presented the Restricted Fund Budgets:
292 i. Capital repairs: Plan for \$41,189 from Capital Reserve Fund to Repair the current siding rather
293 than replace and do some grading around the building at 600 Shaftesbury.
294 ii. The YLE (YOUNG LEADERS EXPERIENCE) budget is \$30,693: \$25,000 from Formation Bequest
295 Fund in addition to fees from the Regional Churches and Participants’ Congregations.
296 iii. Climate action budget (\$30,000 at .5 FTE) will come from the Missional Initiatives fund and will
297 be brought into the operations budget if the position continues after 2 years.
298 e. The budget vote will occur later in the program.

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16. Table Group Discussion #1

- What thoughts/questions arise for you from the Moderator and Executive Minister reports?
- What thoughts/questions arise for you about the financial arrangements with MC Canada and the regional churches?
- What are your thoughts/questions about the budget?
- Are there particular thoughts/questions you have about any of the program areas?

17. Table Group Reporting #1 (Due to the lack of time, only 2 table groups will report, and all delegate and non-delegate table notes will be collected)

- Table 6:** Observed that there was nothing controversial and that a lot was not said. There is a lot that needs to be heard regarding decisions on staffing that have to do with the budget. Affirmation of Doug’s leading throughout the pandemic and thank you for naming staff who serve in the background.
- Table 8:** The discussion was preoccupied with creation care and restructuring ISR and a question about whether these positions are created proactively or reactively. Are we responding to the latest trend that will change in two years?

18. Program Reporting

- Indigenous-Settler Relations (p. 13) Doug Klassen, Allegra Friesen Epp.** Doug acknowledged that we miss the presence, expertise, and passion of Steve Heinrichs as the ISR Director, and he has heard the laments of many people whom he receives and holds. He summarized the information provided on p. 13 of the ISR Report. We hope this is not a “step back” (as mentioned by Cheryl Bear) but a shift to a position that will coordinate the regions to build relationships in their local regions and also together. Steve’s final project was the book for Neil and Edith. Allegra Friesen Epp sent a short video to report on her 1.5-year joint internship with MC Canada and CPT. She referenced the advocacy work, involvement in regional working groups, and relationships developed. She is currently in Lebanon with CPT and will be returning in late August when her internship will be completed. She expressed the value and potential in other internships happening with MC Canada programs: International Witness, CommonWord, and Communications.
- International Witness Jeanette Hanson.** “What is in your hands?” Jeanette presented the range of International Witness commitments and connections that are reflected on pages 10-12 of the program book. She invited attendees to think about the question: “What is in your hands to serve your community and serve the global body of Christ?” She also highlighted that MC Canada is looking for more congregations to build “sister” relationships through the networks supporting eight ministries in China, Thailand, South Korea, Philippines, Palestine/Israel, Benin, Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, Ethiopia, and Colombia. A new group is forming to support the ministry in Myanmar.
- CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre P. 14-15 Arlyn Friesen.** Arlyn’s PowerPoint report presentation highlighted the several ways to access and purchase or borrow resources from Common Word. Online ordering increased during Covid. Materials are curated that help strengthen our Anabaptist identity and what the church is currently discussing. We find aspirational materials, and resources that encourage and form, challenge, confront and stretch us. Materials are curated for all ages, for personal and congregational use. Arlyn seeks your recommendations! What are you reading? What is working well in your congregation? Where are the challenges, the gaps, and the resource limitations? Please offer us “community-developed” materials that have worked well in your context.

19. The delegate meeting ended on Saturday at 3:00 pm without enough time for Table Group Discussion #2 which was deferred to the beginning of Monday delegate session.

- 349 20. **Closing of first delegate session at 3:05 pm**
350
- 351 21. **The second Delegate Session** was called to order by Calvin at 9:00 am, August 1st.
352
- 353 22. **The Official Attendance was announced by Calvin:**
354 a. 215 in-person registrations,
355 b. 100 virtual registrations,
356 c. 50 local volunteers (coming and going),
357 d. 365 total participants.
358
- 359 23. **Table Group Discussion #2**
360 a. Are there particular thoughts/questions you have about any of the program areas?
361 b. Due to the large volume of information that funnels through regional communication channels, the
362 greatest challenge our program directors face is getting information into congregations. What
363 thoughts/questions do you have as to how this could be solved?
364
- 365 24. **Table Group Reporting #2:** All table group discussions will be collated by the listening committee.
366 a. **Table # 9:** A) felt that program reports did not touch on where the biggest needs are and what was
367 needed from the regional churches. There were questions about the cut to ISR. What was the
368 consultation process? Who was part of the decision? B) Information is sent but people filter. How
369 do we encourage congregations to recognize what is happening nationwide? How do we get
370 delegate reports to all the congregations (over 100 churches in MCEC)? **Doug's response:** The
371 largest challenge we face is access to congregations – CommonWord to get info to people leading
372 worship and education, International Witness to find people for witness support networkers, ISR
373 supporting regional working groups, and networking under the new model. **Allan's response:** With
374 budget processing, the staff creates the budget with regional priorities in mind. FPAC looks at it and
375 decides if it is reasonable and then it goes to JC for final review to evaluate if the budget reflects
376 regional priorities. If budget shifts involve staff, it is hard to discuss in the meeting.
377 b. **Table # 12:** When sending out information, it is important it is accompanied or embedded in stories
378 of how lives are changed by the information being presented.
379 c. **Table #3:** Information comes to churches in a variety of ways. 5-page bulletins are already too big,
380 and it is hard for church staff to balance information. Generational differences require various kinds
381 of communication. Contextualization of information is important. For example, the information
382 received about the reasons for the ISR changes was helpful to provide an understanding of this
383 difficult reality.
384 d. **Table #5:** There is a large flow of information, and it is important to break it down to what is easily
385 shareable. In some congregations, WhatsApp is how information comes out. Short, shareable video
386 clips can be more effective in communicating – making things easily shareable in different
387 mediums.
388 e. **Table #10:** MC Canada should get a Tik Tok channel! Having someone highlighting information for
389 congregations would be great. It could be a guest (EM or regional) or a person who highlights a
390 newsletter from the regional church with MC Canada information. Expressed joy for the positions
391 being created and lamented that Steve is gone but understood the dynamics.
392 f. **Table #7:** A congregation could appoint a point person to handle information from the regional and
393 nationwide offices and provide information back to these offices. There has been a decrease in
394 youth programming which has led to a decrease in pastor options.
- 395 25. **Further questions/comments from the delegate floor:**
396 a. There is BIG questions about question a). Little was said about Formation. Why isn't formation a
397 regional thing and why is ISR under regions? Are we cutting ISR to deal with misconduct? Working
398 groups are currently expressing big holes in the flow of resources from ISR. What is happening with

399 the resources and how is collaboration between regions being facilitated? There is a deep sense of
400 loss with Steve’s departure. There are bigger questions about ISR and there is a deep desire and
401 need for advocacy. It is understood that not everyone wants it but there is a deep need for
402 advocacy. **Response:** When restructuring happened, a large part of the nationwide work was to
403 happen in the regions. The Assembly format where delegates meet to make decisions on behalf of
404 the church was changed to Gathering where we come together to worship and celebrate and do
405 basic delegate work. The answers need to be dealt with in the regions where the budgets are being
406 formed and priorities set. We have budgeted time that way. There is a large desire for more active
407 delegate work at the gathering sessions. This may require another day of meetings.
408 b. It is important to give a big shout-out to CommonWord for all the resources and support they
409 provide to the churches.

410
411 **26. Elections Calvin read the slate as noted in the report book.**

412
413 **Motion: “That we accept the 2022-2023 slate as presented.” Motion carried by show of hands.**

414
415 **27. Budget for FYE 2023**

416
417 **Motion: “That we accept the FYE 2023 Operational budget as distributed and the FYE 2023 Capital budget,**
418 **Formation Bequest Fund Budget, and Missional Initiatives Budget as presented.” Motion carried by show of**
419 **hands. No Discussion. Carried.**

420
421 **28. MC Canada Strategic Planning**

- 422 a. We have had the benefit of many of the regions engaging in a visioning process as noted in pages
423 115 – 120 of the Report Book. Regions needed to know where their own vision processes are so
424 that we can work on nationwide strategic planning.
425 b. Considering the lack of time during these delegate sessions to engage in the strategic planning
426 questions, Doug invited those who are interested in an online evening session to look at regional
427 priorities considering what should be nationwide priorities to build plans in and through the
428 nationwide church.

429
430 **29. Closing Comments for Delegate Business Session**

- 431 a. **Doug thanked Allan and Calvin for their faithful service over the last 6 years.**
432 b. **Joint Council and EMG sang a farewell song worded by Doug and Rose to Calvin and Allan.**
433 c. **Allan and Calvin expressed their thankfulness for serving Mennonite Church Canada.**

434
435 **Abbreviations:**

- 436 MC Can - Mennonite Church Canada
437 MCEC - Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
438 MCM - Mennonite Church Manitoba
439 MC Sask - Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
440 MCA - Mennonite Church Alberta
441 MCBC - Mennonite Church British Columbia
442 FPAC – Financial Policy and Audit Committee