

Mennonite Church Alberta 2020 (91st) Annual Delegate Sessions Minutes zoom March 28, 2020 10:30 am

Attendance: 52 delegates from 10 churches. Sixty-six sign-ins representing 75 participants.

Introduction and Welcome - Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Moderator).

Revised agenda accepted.

Affirmation that this format of meeting (zoom) meets the requirements of our Annual Delegate Sessions (affirmed). Quorum has been met. The Parliamentarian is Vince Friesen (Edmonton First). The Resolutions Committee is Allan Hiebert (Foothills).

Devotional - Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

Recognition of Congregational Milestones - deaths, baptisms

Introduction of Guests

- Orlando Vasquez, Rob Enns (MCC);
- David Epp, Alex Tiessen (RJC);
- Tobi Thiessen (*Canadian Mennonite*);
- Doug Klassen (MC Canada).

Brief remarks from:

- Rebecca Janzen (MCA Global Youth Summit Delegate)
- David Martin (MCEC Executive Minister).

Year in Review of our MCA Programs

Mennonite Church Canada Update - Doug Klassen

Mennonite Church Canada International Witness Update - Jeanette Hanson

Questions for All Programs

Question: Next year is World Conference - do we have plans to connect with that? Answer: Yes. Global Youth Summit takes place in conjunction with Mennonite World Conference. Our delegate, Rebecca Janzen, will connect with the Alberta church before and after going.

Question: What if your congregation is interested in a place where there is no International Witness worker? Answer: Most of the countries do not have an International Witness worker, But we work with people in those countries to form networks of support for these other ministries as well.

Updates from Executive: Community Building and Program and Festival Committees have started working together and we will see how that goes. If we want to make the change permanent, that will come to the delegates next year.

We are working on bringing revisions of the constitution and by-laws to the next delegate assembly. Hope to have something drafted and reviewed by the Fall, so that congregations can discuss prior to their annual meetings.

Question: People mention working with the South Sudanese in Ethiopia, but it is not in the budget. Answer: General Council approved this in principle but with the awareness that we do not have the money for it in this year's budget. However, there are people in our churches who might want to support this financially. Mission & Service is encouraged to seek that funding and to move forward with that when feasible.

Introduction of *Canadian Mennonite* Discussion - Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

Need your individual responses to these questions (in report book). See link to survey on mcab.ca/delegates page. Please respond today or tomorrow.

Resolutions

- 1. Be it resolved that MCA approve the minutes from 2019 AGM as presented in the report book.**

Moved by Elizabeth Wall (Edmonton First); seconded by Werner De Jong (Holyrood).

Carried.

Audited financial statements and budget were presented.

Discussion:

Question: We do not know if we will be able to have Camp this summer. What would the budget look like in different scenarios? Is this a good year for Jon to take a sabbatical? Should we create an endowment fund for rainy days? Answer: We do have a separate detailed Camp budget in the Report Book and we will discuss the endowment idea. Camp Valaqua Committee is meeting regularly. Programs have been cancelled to the end of April.

Question: If Mission & Service is looking into the Ethiopia proposal, would we do that outside our budget? Answer: Yes, outside our budget, like a restricted fund. We would set up a fund for that which people could contribute to directly.

Question: How many churches met their congregational budgets in 2019? Answer: Calgary First, Springridge, Edmonton First had a surplus. Lethbridge had a modest surplus. Bergthal just barely met their budget. Trinity did not meet its budget. Holyrood had a deficit. Brenda sent out a letter to ask congregations if they could contribute more.

Question: Could we use the MCA website to describe extra-budget ministry opportunities we are supporting, identify fundraising goals for each, and use the donation button?

Question: How is the amount determined of what goes to MC Canada? Our national church might be able to recover better than our schools. Can other regions pick up some slack? Answer: MC Canada receives funds from MCA. They don't do separate fundraising. There's pressure all over the system and strain on budgets across the board.

- 2. Be it resolved that MCA approve the 2019 audited financial statements as distributed.**

Moved by Wayne Janz (Calgary First); seconded by Trevor Wiens (Foothills). Carried.

3. Be it resolved that MCA appoint Retzlaff and Wong as auditors for 2020. Moved by Wayne Janz (Calgary First); seconded by Werner De Jong (Holyrood). Carried.

4. Be it resolved that MCA approve the 2020 budget as presented in the report book. Moved by Wayne Janz (Calgary First); seconded by Ruth Friesen (Edmonton First). Carried.

5. Be it resolved that MCA approve the Nominations as slated.

Moved by Ruth Friesen (Edmonton First); seconded by Kate Janzen (Foothills). Carried.

Nominations:

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Foothills) - Moderator

Wayne Janz (Calgary First) - Treasurer

Doug Wiebe (Lethbridge) - Personnel

Werner De Jong (Holyrood) - Congregational Life

Kate Janzen (Foothills) - Community Building

Karen Janz (Calgary First) - Program & Festival

Jake Froese (Trinity) - Mission & Service

William Riek Tut (Edmonton South Sudanese Mennonite Church) - Mission & Service

Albert Goerzen (Lethbridge) - Camp Valaqua

Kathryn Friesen (Edmonton First) - Camp Valaqua

Christine Hansplant (Calgary First) was appointed to the Camp Committee by General Council after our last ADS. There were no new nominees and some vacancies remain. Thanks to those whose terms have ended.

Commissioning of Volunteers - Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

Launch of E3 - Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ - Laura Wiebe (Trinity), Debbie Baergen (Edmonton First), Werner De Jong (Holyrood) from the Reference Group.

In 2022 we will host the MC Canada gathering. We are starting to put a hosting group together already.

Offering - We normally have an offering during the delegate sessions. Donations can be mailed in to MCA and many of our congregations have online options.

Thanks to First Mennonite Edmonton who had planned to host these sessions.

Thank you to June Miller for all you have done today. June and Chad will be moving to Harrisonburg, Virginia where he has accepted a lead pastor position starting Aug. 1. June says she will miss us.

Closing 1:16 pm.