

**MINUTES OF THE 45th ANNUAL MEETING
MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ONTARIO
MEETING MCC 2008
November 8, 2008
Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church, Waterloo**

Theme: "In the Name of Christ"

PRESENT: 146 delegates/voting members out of a total of 405 present

Welcome

Margaret Nally welcomed everyone and introduced the hosts: Paul Gilbert & Leah Reesor. Paul McIlwraith, lead pastor at WMB opened the day in prayer.

Worship through Music

Duane Boles and the Waterloo Mennonite Brethren worship band led in singing: "Colossians 3:17" & "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Leah and Paul invited MCCO Executive Director, Rick Cober Bauman to introduce MCC Ontario's Leadership Team.

Ontario Administration Overview

Bev Klassen and the MCCO Administration staff gave an overview of MCCO Administration for the fiscal year ending Aug 31/08, including information on revenue and expenses, a story about the work and outcomes for each of the following areas:

- General Administration
- Revenue
- Finances
- Expenses
- Forwardings to MCCC/MCC
- Human Resources
- Communications

Interspersed with these reports was a story from Steve Rempel, sharing of his experiences with MCC's SALT program in Bangladesh.

Ontario Resource Generation Overview

Dan Driedger and the MCCO resource generation staff gave an overview of MCCO Resource Generation for the fiscal year ending Aug 31/08, including information on revenue and expenses, a story about the work and outcomes for the following areas:

- Total Constituent Giving
- General Donations
- Net Estates & Trusts
- Designated Donations
- Thrift Shops
- Relief Sales
- Material Resources

Interspersed with these reports were stories from Jenn Toews, Scott Bauman, and Mark & Allison Brubacher, who created the inaugural "Run for Relief" at the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale in 2008; and from Palmer & Ardsy Becker, MCC Ontario Thrift Shop Volunteers.

Ontario Program Overview

Wendy Adema and the MCCO program staff gave an overview of MCCO Program for the fiscal year ending August 31/08, including information on revenue and expenses, and a story about each of the following programs: -

- Aboriginal Neighbours
 - Creation Care
 - Peace Education

- Global Education
- Interfaith Bridgebuilding
- Low German Newcomers
- People in Poverty
- Restorative Justice
- Refugees
- Youth and Young Adults

Interspersed with these reports were stories from volunteer Leon Kehl on his involvement with Interfaith Bridgebuilding and from participant Cindy MacRae on her involvement with the Circle of Friends program.

Video: “The Guts of Peacemaking” (created by MCCO Peace Animator, Matthew Bailey-Dyck)

Guest Speaker: Emmanuel LoWilla

Emmanuel opened by reading Matthew 25, verses 35-36. Emmanuel raised the challenge of rebuilding the nations with a sympathetic heart, and doing all things in the name of Christ. He indicated that each person has a choice, similar to Nehemiah in the bible. People can choose to ignore the problems and challenges of Sudan, but Nehemiah chose, and each one of us here chooses to act in the name of Christ. Emmanuel thanked us for our choice. Emmanuel summarized MCC’s support of his work with RECONCILE in Sudan. Emmanuel offered a blessing to all those in attendance; “may God bless you abundantly”.

Report from MCC BiNational – David Martin

David brought greetings from Akron, and in particular, Arli Klassen. David reflected on what it means to serve “In the Name of Christ”. He indicated the MCC is currently focusing energy on Burma/Myanmar, the earthquake in China, Caribbean storms, flooding in Nepal and India, displaced Iraqis and the conflict in eastern Congo (in addition to regular program). David spoke about MCC’s cooperation to assist the rebuilding of Southern Sudan. David also made reference to the current global economic picture, the New Wine, New Wineskins process and the Material Resources Review. David thanked MCC Ontario and its constituents for their overwhelming support.

Paul Gilbert & Leah Reesor closed the morning session with announcements and an invitation to attend one of the many seminars being offered.

Seminars

- ABORIGINAL NEIGHBOURS: Shaping Justice 11:00am/Sustainable Food Solutions 1:00pm
- COMING HOME: SOUTHERN SUDAN AFTER DECADES OF WAR
- FACES OF POVERTY, REFLECTIONS OF CHRIST: Women Experiencing Homelessness and Poverty in Waterloo Region
- GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS: MCC’S RESPONSE
- THE LONG ROAD TO PEACE & RECONCILIATION IN RWANDA/BURUNDI
- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: A Work In Progress 11:00am/SMART 1:00pm
- MATERIAL RESOURCES: NEXT STEPS
- SPEAK JUSTICE! SPEAK PEACE! Making Our Voices Heard on Poverty and Militarism
- TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES...Making A World of Difference
- The WORK of the MCC Ontario BOARD: 11:00am New Wine, New Wineskins: Reshaping MCC for the 21st century/12:00pm Business: The Budget, 1:00pm Business: Kingdom Building – Does 50 Kent Still Serve Its Purpose?

Off Site Seminars

- BRIDGES OF PEACE: Muslims and Christians Working Together in KW
- MENNONITE DIVERSITY IN WATERLOO REGION: Spring Rolls and Noodle Soup
- REDUCE, REUSE, REJOICE: New Hamburg Thrift Shop Visit
- TAKING OUR CUES FROM CREATION: A Tour of Green Design

Seminars: 11:00-12:00 and 1:00-2:00 [offsite seminars 11:00-2:00]

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| Lunch: 12:00-1:00 |
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Worship through Music

Graham Sweet and others from Emmanuel Bible College led in singing: "God of Justice" and "In Christ Alone"

Jess Reesor (SALT) Alumni

Jess indicated that when she is with a gathering of MCC folk, she feels like she is with family. Jess reflected with enthusiasm on her experience in Laos with the MCC SALT program. A joy for her during her time serving with MCC, was the "togetherness" of being with the people of Lao. It was a blessing for her to be a part of the larger MCC family. Jess worked as an English teacher in Laos, as well as an MCC writer which allowed her to travel all over the country.

Leadership Team: "Are you Smarter than an MCC Ontario" Leadership Team Member?

The MCCO Leadership team led a quiz with various facts about MCC in Ontario.

Report from MCC Canada – Lois Coleman Neufeld

Lois brought greetings from MCC Canada. She outlined the various organizations that work with and alongside MCC in Canada.

Chair's Report

Margaret Nally, Chair of the MCCO Board shared how MCCO has responded to the call to do all things "in the name of Christ". Margaret made reference to her report in the MCC Ontario Annual Report Book. Margaret rejoiced in the new leadership of Rick Cober Bauman as MCC Ontario Executive Director, and led a blessing for him in his new role. Margaret remembered Marv Frey, and the depth of his contributions as he lived his life, in the name of Christ. Margaret provided an outline of the "New Wine, New Wineskins" process that is currently underway for the various places that MCC is at work at home and around the world. Margaret officially opened the business meeting of the 45th Annual Meeting of Mennonite Central Committee (Ontario).

Minutes of Last Meeting

Peggy Snyder explained who is eligible to vote on the motions presented at the meeting. Peggy presented the minutes from the MCC Ontario Annual Meeting held on November 9&10, 2007 in Oakville.

Moved that the minutes of MCC Ontario Annual Meeting held on November 9/10, 2007, be accepted as a record of that meeting. Moved. Peggy Snyder. Seconded. Karen Daly. CARRIED.

MCCO Treasurer's/Auditor's Report

Sara Cressman, MCCO Treasurer, introduced the MCCO Accountant Art Klassen who presented the differences between the audited and internal financial statements. Auditor, Ed Simon, affirmed the major differences between the internal and external statements previously described by Art.

Moved that the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2008, including the auditor's report, be accepted. Moved. Sara Cressman. Seconded. Jacob Reimer. CARRIED.

Nominating Committee Report

Lloyd Hogg presented the slate of nominees as outlined in the packet of information and recommended the following slate of nominees of Directors/Officers for the MCCO Board for 2008/2009:

Directors nominated by MCCO:

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|------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Additional | Heide van Reisen | Nov 2008 – Nov 2011 | (second term) |
| Additional | Ebenezer Rajeevan | Nov 2008 – Nov 2011 | (second term) |
| Alumni | Anita Streicher | Nov 2008 – Nov 2011 | (first term, formerly completing Karen |

Directors nominated by supporting constituent conferences:

| | | | |
|------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| MCEC | Bob Burkholder | Nov 2008 – Nov 2011 | Smith's term) (first term, formerly completing Donna Jean Forster's term) |
| MB | Lynn Rempel | Nov 2008 – Nov 2009 | (completing Hardy Schroeder's term) |
| MCEC | Leah Reesor | Nov 2008 – Nov 2011 | (first term, formerly young adult rep) |
| MCEC | Greta Wiens | Nov 2008 – Nov 2011 | (first term) |
| EMMC | In Progress | | |

Lloyd thanked the following outgoing officers and Directors:

| | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------------|
| Hardy Schroeder | MB | (Resignation) |
| Dinora de Villalta | MCEC | (End of second term) |

Moved that the proposed slate of nominees of Directors and Officers be elected to the MCC Ontario Board of Directors. Moved. Lloyd Hogg. Seconded. Ted Dueck. CARRIED.

Bylaw Changes

Ted provided a brief explanation and background to both By-Law 1 and 4.

Moved that the amendment of the Second section of By-Law 1, which reads as follows be ratified; *“The annual meeting shall review and approve the financial statements and Treasurer’s report for the immediately preceding fiscal year, including the Auditor’s report thereon; appoint a public accounting firm as Auditor for the upcoming fiscal year; review and accept reports from the Officers and Directors and ratify actions taken by the Board in the immediately preceding fiscal year; elect Officers and Board members as required and transact any other necessary business”*

Moved. Ted Dueck. Seconded. Margot Fieguth. CARRIED.

Moved that the “By-Law Authorizing Borrowing and Pledging” of the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, be ratified as By-Law 4 of Mennonite Central Committee [Ontario]

Moved. Ted Dueck. Seconded. Victor Dorsch. CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditor

Moved that the firm of Simon, McWhinnie, Riediger and Meredith be appointed as auditors for MCC Ontario for the 2008/09 fiscal year, at a fee to be established by the MCCO Board.

Moved. Sara Cressman. Seconded. Paul Gilbert. CARRIED

Overview of Revenue & Expenditures Budget for 2008/2009

Sara provided an overview of the anticipated revenue, disbursement and expenditures for fiscal year 2008/09.

DESSERT BREAK

Worship Through Music

Graham Sweet led the group in singing “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Revenue & Expenditures Budget for the 2008/2009 Fiscal Year

Moved that the projection of anticipated revenue, disbursement and expenditures for the 2008/2009 fiscal year be approved as a guideline for the management of MCC Ontario’s financial resources until the next Annual Meeting. Moved. Sara Cressman. Seconded. Adolfo Puricelli. CARRIED.

Open Microphone

Comments during open microphone included:

- **Lena Siegers challenged each one of us to meet (and double!) the budget in this coming fiscal year by striving to live with less in our own lives!**

Sudanese Worship Celebration & Offering

Paul & Leah thanked Margaret for the business segment of the meeting. They indicated that Meeting MCC 2009 will be held in the Niagara Region. Leah introduced Moses Moini, the MCCO Refugee Program Coordinator and the MCC DVD "Coming Home in Southern Sudan" was shown to kickoff the Sudanese Worship Time.

Sudanese/Canadian Choir groups from both Hamilton and Kitchener provided worship music, as well as a drama written by Moses Moini and Sonya VanderVeen Feddema entitled "Clothe yourselves with compassion for the repatriated Sudanese". The children from the Sudanese Community assisted ushers with taking up an offering.

Closing Worship and Benediction

Paul and Leah thanked the coordinators, speakers, volunteers etc who made the meeting possible. Leah closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Minutes recorded by Lori Martin