



Minutes #20-05

Missions Advisory Committee Meeting

Via ZOOM

January 30, 2020, 2:00pm CST

Present: Albert Rempel, Chair (Region 6), Lyn Dyck, Executive Director, Steve Miller (Region 1), Art Toews (Region 2), Dick Plett (Region 3), Lena Wiebe, Secretary (Region 4), Henry Redekopp

1. Opening and Welcome – Albert

2. Scripture and Prayer – Art

Art read Numbers 14:15-19. What Art enjoys about the Old Testament is that it is about rescuing the nations, even when it seems that the people aren't listening. God's purposes don't get thwarted by our lack of faithfulness. There is so much comfort to be found in God's faithfulness.

3. Approval of Minutes – Lena

Moved by Lena and seconded by Steve that the minutes be approved as written. All in favour.

4. Peter Serger attending MAC Meetings– Albert

Peter could not attend the meeting today due to illness, so Lyn filled in for him. The plan is that Peter will be the staff member attending MAC meetings from now on, especially to discuss the AM's.

5. New Business

a) EMMC Ministry Philosophy – Henry Redekopp

The General Board tasked Henry Redekopp, Darrell Kehler, and Ernie Koop to develop a ministry evaluation tool. The EMMC Missions Philosophy was first presented at the GC Meetings in July, then revised and presented again at the GC Meetings in November, where it was renamed the "EMMC Ministry Philosophy". An introductory paragraph was created by Lyn Dyck, Darrell Kehler and Henry Redekopp and has been added since then. It is now far enough that it could be used to evaluate a ministry we're involved with and while using it, evaluate the tool. Eventually the MAC could use this tool to evaluate the MEM and the AM's ministry. Lyn suggested using it to evaluate our own church and then give feedback to Henry on how the tool worked. (The focus is more on evaluating the tool than on evaluating the church.) The questions need to be clear at face value. If they have to be explained too much, they need to be changed, so please give feedback on this. This tool was always and only meant for the improvement of the ministry, in addition to bringing accountability. It is geared to help and assist, not in any way to destroy. It is created to sharpen and self-reflect. Henry invited MAC members to submit comments and questions about the form within the completed evaluation.

Action: MAC members should have their home church evaluations done and sent to Henry by February 10, with a MAC meeting with Henry the week of Feb 17-22, possibly on Feb 18. This will enable Henry to have feedback ready for the next GB meeting in March.

*Henry left the meeting at this point to go to another meeting.

6. MEM Business

a) Board Term Recommendations for MEM Reps

i) Should they be GC members?

Art feels that there would be a benefit to an MEM rep being a GC member. Lyn says that currently there are two previous GC members in the MEM and there is a definite benefit to having them continuing with MEM. There is value in the overlap of information shared.

ii) No less than 3, no more than 4 voting members?

No discussion on this.

iii) Term limits?

Art feels that four years would be a good length, with possibly two terms served. It would maybe not work out exactly with the GC term, but could be worked around. If the term doesn't coincide with GC or GB terms, a new MEM member could be mentored in as a non-voting member.

Dick: Who is the contact staff person now for MEM?

Lyn Dyck is the contact for general enquiries. Also, he is directly involved with MEM.

Darrel Kehler is more involved with the LIEAB churches.

Peter Serger is directly involved with the AM's.

(The structure is explained in the MEM EMMC Meeting Minutes, dated January 27, 2020.)

b) Information from Bolivia – Dick

Dick had nothing new to report but was wondering how Willie Enns' recovery is going.

Lyn: The latest is that Willie has made improvements with his hearing. His arm is healing really well. Feeling is coming back in his face. Medical expenses could run at \$20K. There is approximately \$12K in our medical funds account. Jason (MEM) feels that Willie's home church will most likely take care of the expenses. Lyn will let us know if anything more is needed.

c) MEM Partnership with EMMC, EBMC and EMC

The renewals are coming due August 2012 and December 2021, respectively. Abe emailed partnership agreements to MAC members for review.

7. Associate Missionaries – Lyn (for Peter)

a) Should AM's attend an EMMC church if there is one in the area where they live?

For example, Wes and Carol Schellenberg were with InterAct in Calgary and have moved to AVANT in Winnipeg. There are two EMMC churches in Winnipeg that they could attend but they have chosen not to attend. Art thinks that the Schellenbergs are still members of Glencross, so we should check if this is still their home church and if the church is still supporting them. (Lyn will look into this.)

A decision needs to be made regarding this question (and not just as it relates to the Schellenbergs) but it is not an easy answer.

b) Who should get funding?

The easy way – chronologically, as has been done up until now.

A better way: Is to ask questions like, “Where are they serving?”, “Which region are they from?” “What type of ministry are they involved in?” “Where are the gaps?”

MAC could look at all of the applications and looking at the “portfolio” of AM’s to see who would be the next best “fit”, rather than it just being a chronological choice. The application process could still be the same. Peter could build the portfolio and then as a MAC we could see where the gaps are. We will have to be careful how we decide who gets the next available funding because it could possibly go to someone who has recently applied and someone else who has been waiting for years may not understand why they didn’t receive the funding.

*Dick left the meeting at this point

8. Provisional Council Region 1 – Steve

a) Church Plant Possibility?

The Warman church is at a point where it is needing some practical help. Seven or eight years ago there was a church split where a large percentage of the people left with the lead pastor. About two years ago the group was back up to 50 people, now down to about 20-25 people. The group is really discouraged and has reached out to conference leadership.

Lyn: The Provisional Council had their first organizing meeting last night. Steve Miller is going to be a real help there. Warman is one of the fastest growing towns of the prairie provinces, so there should be people to come to church.

Steve: Has done some research, churches in Canada are rapidly decreasing. This is huge and is going to become more common. He is happy that we have conference leadership that has a vision for making disciples. We need to keep walking by the Spirit of God. We need to bear down and be the church that God wants us to be. Braden Friesen and Steve were at the church planting conference, and Jesse Doell took courses and kept on reading about church planting. Now God is using these men to be part of the re-launch of this church. The Provisional Council is using the same kinds of ideas as were used in the re-launch of the Blenheim EMMC.

9. Prayer/Exposure Team, February 2020

The prayer team has been confirmed: Darrell Kehler, leader, Darrell Dyck, Albert and Nancy Rempel, Michael and Annemarie Krahn, Braden Friesen (Warman), Steve Miller, Peter Serger, Ben and Bertha Kauenhoffen. There is someone from each of the regions, with a good selection of pastors, board members, and MAC members. The dates for the trip are: February 28-March 10.

10. Tariga Church Plant – GB Funding approved

The Deer Run Church had started funding for a building for the Tariga church plant, with Ruben Mercado. The GB approved Deer Run Church sending a one-time \$15K support to this church plant.

8. Next Meeting – February 18?

9. Closing prayer – Steve

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm

Minutes recorded by Lena Wiebe