

**MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE  
SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE  
OF  
MENNONITE BROTHERS CHURCHES**

March 12 & 13, 2004

Forest Grove Community Church  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**“PEOPLE OF PRAISE”**

**Friday ~ March 12, 2004 ~ 7:35 p.m.**

**1. Opening and Welcome ~ Rod Dick**

- 1.1. Moderator Rod Dick welcomed the delegates and visitors to the Convention.
- 1.2. Rod shared how in studying through Rick Warren’s book titled *The Purpose Driven Life*, the message behind Acts 17:26-28 was impressed upon him. God gave us a place and a purpose in this world...“to seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him”.
- 1.3. Rod then prayed through Zephaniah 3:17.
- 1.4. Senior Pastor Bruce Enns welcomed everyone to Forest Grove Community Church, and then reading through Ephesians 1, verse 17 and on, he asked that our hearts would be flooded with the light of the Holy Spirit, giving all those attending wisdom and revelation to know God’s will so that we see the world through the eyes of our hearts, knowing the hope that He called us to.

**2. Introduction and Welcome of Guests ~ Rod Dick**

- 2.1. Rod welcomed Olivia Hardy (Kindred Productions), Lorie Barkman (Family Life Network), Les Sawatsky (Canadian Mennonite University), Susan Brandt (M.B. Herald), Gerald Hildebrand (Mennonite Brethren Missions and Services International), Ross Hardy (MB Stewardship Ministries), Jim Holm (Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary), Bruno Baerg (Mennonite Central Committee - Saskatchewan), Gord Banman (Christian Service Brigade), Cory Regier (Mennonite Trust), David Wiebe (Executive Director - Canadian Conference), Dave Pauls (Bethany College), Jim Nightingale (Redberry Bible Camp), Ray Dueck (West Bank Bible Camp), Scott Siemens (MCC - Mennonite Voluntary Service), Sherry Allson (Canadian Bible Society), Cam Rowland (Executive Director – Canadian Conference Discipleship Ministries), Sharon Johnson (Adult Ministry Director – Canadian Conference), Sherryl Koop (Youth Ministry Director – Canadian Conference) and Marie Speiser (Carmel House).

**3. Nominating Committee Report ~ Henry Braun**

- 3.1. Nominating Committee members Archie Jantzen, Lucille Wall, & Henry Braun are still looking for people to fill some positions; reviewed vacancies.
- 3.2. Encouraged delegates, after due prayer, to either approach suitable candidates or volunteer for a position themselves.
- 3.3. Have until noon tomorrow to nominate a candidate.
- 3.4. Nominee needs to agree to let their name stand.
- 3.5. Nominations can also be made from the floor during the time set aside for elections.

#### 4. **State of the Province Address ~ Director of Church Ministries Ralph Gliege**

Assistant Moderator Ron Dyck commended Director of Church Ministries Ralph Gliege and his wife Grace on the excellent service they give the Conference and introduced Ralph who then gave his *State of the Province Address*.

Saskatchewan... unknown to people from the United States; shrinking population; drought; crippled cattle industry; people just want to drive straight through; don't even think about it as they fly over; BUT... we have special sunrises and sunsets; stars and northern lights; lakes and fields; a natural paradise for hunters and naturalists alike; the world's richest untapped natural resources; missionaries sent out to all corners of the earth; it's home to most of us and there's no place like home.

Recently met with 14 Conference Ministers from different denominations. There is great diversity, but their common ground is the love of the Lord. Part of the focus was building the kingdom of God in a rural ministry setting. God is doing great things in a church out in the country that is serving as a church to its region. The Conference minister from Calgary reminded the Saskatchewan ministers about the rich untapped resources that we have... an unknown secret that once realized will draw people here. So... what kinds of churches do we want in Saskatchewan to welcome the people home?

Ralph found treasure recently. He found the duplicate packages of wheat kernels that were collected in 1998 from a project where churches were given seeds to plant; one kernel for each member, to see what sort of growth and multiplication there would be from the "death" of the planted seed. It was wonderful to see the bounty, but there was also sadness... realized that for 6 years, the seeds that he found remained intact and alive but they did not fulfil the purpose for which they were created. Like these seeds, we must be willing to die in order that many may live. Reminisced about Mimi & Henry Loewen who pastored the Elbow Church; Mimi admonished Ralph with his reference to John 12:24; "a kernel must die to produce." Mimi said that more emphasis must be put on dying instead of living. We must die to self in order for us to realize our God-given potential.

In 1999, we had 3243 members with the average Sunday attendance just under 4000. We've had minimal growth since then; are we lacking courage to do what it takes? Those seeds left in closet could be a symbolic of static growth or does it mean that the seeds are in the planting season? Ralph wants to be here to celebrate the growth... when we become a "have" province and enjoy the spiritual harvest. We must be faithful and humble ourselves. Quoted from the apostle Paul: Galatians 6:7-10 and then Jesus from John 12.

Ralph then invited various people to come up and share their stories.

#### *Terry Froese ~ Hope Fellowship Church, Saskatoon*

Central MB Church started it off in Saskatoon... West Portal and Forest Grove are its children and Living Hope is its grandchild. Central MB closed in 1993 and "new hope" sprang up... Hope Fellowship was birthed in 1994 and just had their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Terry shared about Linda & Rod; Linda came to church at the invitation of her sister, rededicated her life to Christ, decided to be celibate, moved out, prayed for her partner's salvation, he was saved, they got married, had a family, and he's now a leader in their men's ministry.

Terry apologized at the previous convention for how his church hadn't been financially supporting the Saskatchewan Conference. This year, they gave their first cheque when they were actually in a deficit position and they've been financially blessed since. God honours faithful stewardship.

Terry shared of a reconciliation experience he recently had. During the Reformation, Anabaptists were severely persecuted and many died for their faith. Leaders from the Swiss Reform Church invited Anabaptists to Switzerland so that they could apologize and reconcile for the persecution. These same leaders then came to an Amish community in Libby, Montana this January to continue with the process. Terry, as a member of Watchmen for the Nations, attended that meeting and reported on how the Spirit of God was and is powerfully moving in this. Swiss Reform pastors are now being baptized and are baptizing others on confession of faith, even though it's still against the law to do so! Reconciliation took place between Mennonites from Lancaster, MB's from Saskatchewan, Swiss Reform people from Switzerland and the Amish hosts.

Terry said that their church felt that because they are a bit different than others in the MB Conference, they felt somewhat estranged but God spoke to their hearts and made them realize that they themselves had to take a step and they have... they are now fully supporting and look forward to be fully reconciled. Ralph prayed for Hope Fellowship Church and thanking God for what He has done and looking forward to what we can do together in the future.

*Randy & Myrna Chase, Amber Deschenes ~ Woodrow Gospel Chapel*

Woodrow was named after US President Woodrow Wilson and was originally called "Weedy"; population 14; God is doing amazing things there. Randy shared how Amber's mother Joanne came to church at the invitation of a friend named Diane and through the Alpha program and came to know the Lord. Later, Amber also gave her life to Christ! Diane and her husband Dave are now, with the blessing of the priest and other leadership, leading the Alpha program in Joanne's "Catholic" church.

Amber was a borderline alcoholic, smoked and partied. Her mother challenges her before and during her graduation to turn her life over to Christ and at her grad party, she came to an awareness of the futility of what she and the people around her were all involved in. Amber went to Canadian Bible College that fall to check things out and is now at Bethany College. Randy prayed over Amber.

Ralph then went through a PowerPoint presentation about the Saskatchewan MB Pastor's Retreat held at Christopher Lake. The theme was, "Who's in charge when I'm not in control?" Eric Wingender from Montreal lead in a study of three Bible characters who had to die to self so that God could bring new life to their worlds.

*Dave Grimes ~ Carrot River Gospel Mission*

Their pastor left, they are now faithfully giving to the SK Conference; had a flood in church; demolished the church; now have new life and are meeting at a funeral chapel. Financially speaking, they are in a surplus position. Looking at building a new church. Ralph challenged... could the Saskatchewan Conference do a church-raising? A couple attending church, Gary & Ruby, were baptized last June. Dave shared how Gary is the quickest to the "tip-up" when they are ice-fishing. They're looking for a pastor now.

*Peter and Sandra Falk ~ Prairie Winds Church, Moose Jaw*

Ralph gave them the Regal Heights MB Church wheat kernels to plant. Regal Heights closed in June 1999, but... Harvey and Shirley Janzen and Joe and Shantelle Almeida had the passion and a vision to start a church, and they did! It was hard when Harvey and Shirley left to pastor at Yorkton, but... then Peter and Sandra Falk started feeling God's call to leave BC and came to Moose Jaw. Peter's brother George was the principal at Cornerstone Christian School and Falks' business was failing, so they asked the Lord what his plan was for them. The Lord told Sandra in her sleep that they were to sell out and move

to help at Cornerstone. It seemed like an impossible thing to do, Cornerstone didn't call them, but they still felt led to go, even with the lousy weather! Spotted a house that they'd like if it ever came up for sale, it came up for sale, they made an offer (sight unseen) and bought it. The Falks' son Gordon also felt God's call and came to Moose Jaw also! They didn't know where to go to church and were going to ask Ralph Gliege if they could start a church, but there were Joe & Shantelle! Went to a ministerial meeting on behalf of Cornerstone and the only one who would show him any attention was Joe, in fact, he wouldn't leave him alone! Joe has shown him what a pastor needs to be. Prairie Winds was meeting at the Almeidas' but Peter was allergic to their cat, and when an opportunity opened for them to start meeting at Cornerstone, they took it and have been richly blessed ever since!

There's much more to share about, but, like Hebrews 11:32 says, there just isn't enough time to tell it all. Things like:

- † the amazing things happening in Canora since Pastor Greg Bright left for a ten-month leave to India and Pat & Gina Dergousoff and Joey & Eden Umali took over
- † Glenbush giving the most per member to SK Conference ministry support, even with no income in farming
- † how Hepburn reluctantly let their Youth Pastor Couple Jeff and Connie Peters leave for seminary, and how they are now returning to candidate for the church's Senior Pastor position
- † Justin Klassen divinely being led to do his internship at Waldheim, and when he got there, having to serve as a replacement youth pastor and now returning as Associate Pastor after graduation!

We truly need to trust our God to get us past these dying experiences and then take us to the resurrection experience that He has in store for us.

Ralph called up Menno Martens and Lucille Wall of Bridgeway Community Church in Swift Current. The church is going through troubled times, but there is some dying going on and things are coming back, resurrection day is coming. Ralph gave them two packages of wheat kernels that he still had; one with 266 seeds representing their membership in 1998 and another with 2310 seeds... the harvest they brought back the next year. Ralph prayed for the congregation and then closed with reading John 15:8.

## **5. Closing ~ Ron Dyck**

- 5.1. Billeting arrangements reviewed.
- 5.2. Reviewed tomorrow morning's plan.
- 5.3. Urged safe travel.
- 5.4. Closed in prayer at 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday ~ March 13, 2004 ~ 8:00 a.m.**

## **6. Opening ~ Ron Dyck**

- 6.1. Ron Dyck opened the morning session in prayer at 7:50 a.m.

## **7. Mennonite Brethren Missions and Services International Report ~ Gerald Hildebrand**

- 7.1. Gerald opened with references to the front page news in the Star Phoenix and National Post... terrorist attacks!
- 7.2. Gandhi's quote - "Be the change you want to see in the world" is our challenge.

- 7.3. Quoted from Philippians 1:3-6, stating that we are invited to partner with God and each other, each doing our part to build His kingdom.
- 7.4. MBMSI makes disciples and plants churches.
- 7.5. Over it's 100+ years of ministry, they have had 2500 missionaries.
- 7.6. Holistic Ministry
  - 7.6.1. Church planting
  - 7.6.2. Leadership development where churches have already taken root
  - 7.6.3. Social Ministry
- 7.7. Short term ministry opportunities include: Youth Mission International, Pastors Overseas, Global Action Partners, and Disciple Making International.
- 7.8. Missions trips are both single & multi-term.
- 7.9. The Global MB Family – 80% are outside of North America; they desire a relationship with us - to partner - especially in leadership development. We are a worldwide Missionary Church... they are sending missionaries also!
- 7.10. Senior Pastor Bruce Enns of Forest Grove Community Church shared about their missions involvement – FGCC has 14 long term missionaries that they support. Youth pastors Kevin Wiens & Susan Enns are developing a plan for a missions trip to Mexico. The youth are prepared and built up by first serving locally with “Splash” in Saskatoon, then they take what they’ve learned out to Emmanuel Community Church in Pierceland, and then ultimately they can “SOAR” to Mexico. What’s the plan now? They have decided to concentrate on one location and work there long term and inter-generationally. On the other side, they didn’t want to discriminate against other missionaries by focusing on one. Trevor & Joan Goddard were sent by FGCC to Columbia and discipled Einer & Girsela Zuluaga and they in turn are now developing indigenous leaders among the Embera & Wounan peoples. FGCC will be partnering with them in leadership development, medical services and working with youth. Kevin is going there tomorrow to check things out to see what the best option would be for FGCC to focus on. They are involving all ages groups in many ways along the way, both in Mexico and with preparations and advice.
- 7.11. Linking:
  - 7.11.1. local & global
  - 7.11.2. short & long term efforts
- 7.12. Gerald challenged delegates to “Step Out!”

## 8. Recess ~ Ron Dyck

- 8.1. Ron declared a recess and closed in prayer at 8:40 a.m.

## 9. Reconvene ~ Rod Dick

- 9.1. Rod reconvened at 8:55 a.m. and opened the session with an analogy between this convention’s reduced attendance because of the storm, and how Gideon had his troops reduced to the number God wanted.

## 10. Canadian Conference State of the Country Address ~ Executive Director Dave Wiebe

- 10.1. Dave started with reading Ephesians 3:8-11 - we believe that as a Canadian Conference we are a church on a mission with a mission.
- 10.2. Stated their mission in two versions:
  - 10.2.1. to lead churches and provincial conferences to nurture and equip members to live the Christian life and to mobilize them for ministry
  - 10.2.2. healthy growing churches reaching their worlds
- 10.3. Statistics - We’re now at 245 churches; 35,000 members; 45,000 attending

**10.4.** Christ's church is not always supported by governments actions and policies... the Church was born in conflict, it grew in conflict, and it will still be in conflict when the Lord returns.

**10.5.** Three focus areas:

**10.5.1.** *Healthy churches – to help increase the health of each church in our Conference for the purpose of impacting our worlds for Christ.*

10.5.1.1. Board of Faith and Life works with theological issues. The Apple Tree Project and Focused Living (formerly the Focusing Leaders Network) are part of the strategy. Dave then shared how Ralph Gliege and he, through a Focused Living session, came to an understanding of who each of them are and ended up reconciling their relationship. Baptism & Membership issue – theologically, they go together, even if some of our member churches separate the two. Women & Ministry Leadership issue – Manitoba Conference passed a motion asking the Canadian Conference to review their stance that women can not be senior pastors. Need to discern very carefully; we have a mission to complete and we must deploy all resources to the cause; also, the Congo MB Church has worked on this, decided to ordain and are now requesting that North America reconsider.

10.5.1.2. Discipleship Ministries – (Periodicals; Kindred; Centre for MB Studies; Age Level Ministries) The new Director Cam Roland shared a bit of his testimony with his church history, seminary attendance, and then God's call on their lives. They received prophetic messages that three things would happen; two of them were: (1) that they would move back to Canada; (2) that another couple would also move back to Canada at the same time. In 1996, he was part of a Focused Living group and was asked, "if you could do one thing for God and not fail what would it be?" He answered, "to develop and administer a nation-wide strategy for discipleship ministries!" He basically wrote his job description at his present Discipleship Ministry job! Another person spoke into his life by saying that God wants to use him, but he has to be willing to take a risk - this was all a step of faith. Discipleship Ministries was formed at the 2002 Canadian Conference Convention and will now work at putting together the best plan; God's plan.

**10.5.2.** *Leadership development – to create an environment where leaders are intentionally discerned, developed and empowered to lead new and established ministries.* Created a Leadership Development Team; Millennium Breakthrough Leadership Project working with five types of leaders needed. We need: to track and develop our youth and young adults; to have clear pathways for second career workers; to improve the leadership environment in our churches; to build up our current vocational ministers; and to allocate resources. Ministry Quest, our colleges and our youth pastors must all work together. Outlined our pastoral needs and challenges for the future.

**10.5.3.** *Reaching out - to impact the lost in Canada and beyond by on-going church planting efforts and by helping churches reach their redemptive potential.* MBMSI and Evangelism Canada are the chief ministries. Church Planting Conferences have been useful; exceeded church planting goals; Mission Calgary is now called Mission Alberta; currently recruiting for Love Toronto; Rendezvous Montreal is on the go - the first church was planted by a fellow from the Congo; Vancouver is the next Key Cities Initiative.

**10.5.4.** *Support Ministries – to support the ministries of the Conference and provide vital services for the churches and staff of our Conference.* John Wiebe is the Treasurer; Stewardship Ministries services were described.

- 10.5.5. Canadian Conference Convention - Gathering 2004 on July 7-10, 2004 – challenge set out to make this a mission trip for delegates; they will have a chance to step out on urban plunge missions events during the Convention.
- 10.5.6. Executive Board functions described; a new governance model will be introduced at Gathering 2004.
- 10.5.7. Shared how, during the Lord's Supper at the Refresh 2004 session before the Convention he was overwhelmed at how much he loved us and challenged us all to love as we go.

## 11. Convention Arrangements ~ Rod Dick

- 11.1. Rod went over the following Convention arrangements:
  - ◆ FGCC has an in-house Balloting Committee
  - ◆ Larry Speiser to be the Parliamentarian
- 11.2. *Phil Gunther / Bob Cappelle ~ That the minutes of the 2003 Convention be approved as presented. Carried*

## 12. MBBS-ACTS Regional Council Report ~ Phil Gunther

- 12.1. Councils were created as a part of the divestiture of the General Conference of MB Churches (US/CDN)
- 12.2. Purpose is to promote, support, and provide oversight, counsel and support for the MBBS-ACTS teaching centre
- 12.3. Eleven member board; Phil was appointed by the Council of Boards in January 2003
- 12.4. Attended five meetings in BC
- 12.5. Business has been focused on: governance, vision/strategic planning and constituency relations
- 12.6. Phil's role has been, in part, to have Saskatchewan's voice heard. Other Council members have been very receptive to our concerns and suggestions; the Elmer Martens "Preaching Jeremiah" course is in part a result of working together with the Regional Council.
- 12.7. MBBS-Acts is doing very well; they are strong and are having a significant impact on Canadian leadership for the MB Church.

## 13. Director of Church Ministries Report ~ Ralph Gliege

- 13.1. Ralph stated that his report is in the convention handbook but that he wouldn't follow it for his verbal report.
- 13.2. Dave Wiebe already shared some of what Ralph has been involved with.
- 13.3. Thanked everyone for their support of Grace & himself. Got tricked by Living Hope Church when they attended a surprise appreciation event for Pastor Dwayne Harms and were instead the recipients of an appreciation event! The cards and gifts were appreciated as were the gifts of cash that went towards a Caribbean cruise!
- 13.4. Two bursaries of \$500 each were given to Jeff Peters and Ryan Schellenberg. Ralph then read an appreciation note from Ryan Schellenberg.
- 13.5. Challenged last year to give via various means - the Youth Group from FGCC just presented a cheque for \$271.35 for the work in Moose Jaw; Susan Brandt & Marilyn Hudson set aside loonies from their coffee time and gave Ralph an envelop with \$66.25 in it. Can we meet the new proposed budget? Yes we can! Give so that you can in turn receive abundantly.
- 13.6. The Board of Faith and Life came up with a plan to honour ministry milestones and the following pastoral couples were honoured: Archie and Erna Janzen at Arelee (10 years), Dennis and Faith Friesen at Foam Lake (10 years), John and Charlotte Klassen at Glenbush (5 years), Harry and Judy Straus at FGCC (5 years), and Cliff and Edith

Jantzen at Swift Current (5 years). Tomorrow will be 5 years at Parliament Community Church for Phil & Janine Gunther; thanked them for their faithful ministry and presented them with an appreciation gift.

13.7. Recently set up displays at Bible Colleges and what created the most interest was the collection of church history books!

13.8. Dan Siebert promoted Main Centre's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this July 23-25. They are calling the event "Century of Praise" and it will be a time to celebrate their heritage, to worship, and to share memories. Brochures are available.

13.9. The annual Pastors' Retreat will be held on October 4-6, 2004.

13.10. Thanked the Conference for the opportunity to serve.

#### **14. Executive Report ~ Rod Dick**

14.1. Rod thanked Ron Dyck for his good work on the constitution revision and asked him to lead the discussion on it.

14.2. Ron walked through the proposed constitution revision.

14.3. *Ron Dyck / Ross Hardy ~ That the Constitution be approved as presented. Carried*

14.4. Proposed amendments were circulated and will be voted on at next year's convention.

14.5. Executive transition - Rod has only one year left in his term and after opening up the opportunity at last year's convention, Phil Gunther was the only one who expressed an interest. Phil has already been representing Rod at some functions and will continue to do so for the coming year.

14.6. It has been a challenging year for the Dicks. Rod tried to ensure that either he or another person represented the Conference at events, and he apologized for the times that because of commitments (his and others'), there wasn't always Conference representation at an event. Shared a note off his mother's fridge: Titled "I AM" by Helen Melicit – I was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking, "My name is I Am. (He paused) When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard, I am not there. My name is not I Was. When you live in the future with its problems and fears, it is hard, I am not there. My name is not I Will Be. When you live in this moment, it is not hard, I am there. My name is I Am." Let's focus on what we are working at right now, not on the past or the future.

14.7. *Rod Dick / Lucille Wall ~ That the Executive Board Report be accepted as presented. Carried*

#### **15. Board of Church Extension Report ~ Andrew Fehr**

15.1. Andrew shared how he ended up Chairing after the former Chair Greg Bright went to India on leave.

15.2. Expressed his appreciation for the work and partnership of his fellow Board members.

15.3. Thanked the other Boards for their support behind the scenes; they lay the ground work and the Board of Church Extension gets most of the credit.

15.4. *Project Reach YOUR World ~ Marion Oatway*

15.4.1. Parliament Community Church – Youth went to a youth ministry seminar and as a result of letters that were written to unsaved people and personal follow-up after they returned from the seminar, one young man became a Christian and joined the Youth Group. It also enriched the spiritual lives of those that attended the seminar and impacted the whole group because they were motivated to pray for those on the unsaved prayer list.

15.4.2. West Portal Church - Divorce Care Support Group – Kelly Wiebe reported: The project helped develop leaders who can and will lead additional groups in the future. It facilitated the church being able to reach out into the community - shared two stories of victory and growth. Boundaries Group – bringing in non-Christian

spouses. 48% of the people coming to groups are from outside the church. Need prayer – potential lawsuits due to the nature of what they are doing and for increased links and contacts.

- 15.4.3. Gospel Fellowship Church (Foam Lake) - Alpha Program. This was a good follow-up to their outreach event.
- 15.4.4. FGCC - Halloween Outreach Program - Marilyn Muller reported: the “Rubber Chicken Guy” was a huge hit; made almost 1000 goodie packages that also contained a gospel tract; 200 left over packages were sent to the Friendship Inn; Doug Horley concert the next weekend had ten families attend that were given free passes from the initial event and 25 children accepted Christ that very night! The gift just keeps going on and on and on.
- 15.4.5. Kelstern Community Church - Spring Banquet Outreach. This was a great way to build bridges out into the community and surrounding district
- 15.4.6. Lanigan Christian Fellowship - Alpha Program. Joined with another church to minister to 23 new people; was a high-impact event; they now plan to run this program annually.
- 15.5. *Prairie Winds Church ~ Joe Almeida, Peter and Sandra Falk, Willard Hasmatali*
  - 15.5.1. Andrew mentioned how the Saskatchewan Conference had previously closed the book on Moose Jaw; we’ve come a long way! God is working powerfully in the city and in the church!
  - 15.5.2. Sandra Falk – thought that she’d be able to come to Moose Jaw and get lost in a big church... it was not to be. Because they had family living with them, she didn’t think that she needed more to do, nor did she think that she needed more people in her life. But she found out that she does, and she loves the role that God gave her at PWC.
  - 15.5.3. Willard Hasmatali – His first contact with Joe was with coaching soccer; Joe loves all people and is a great pastor. Their Christmas children’s service had more Muslim kids than Christian! Joe challenged them with the vision that they are a church without walls... we go where the people are!
  - 15.5.4. Peter Falk – They are very grateful for the Conference financial support and asked for more prayers and continued support. God is the driver and we’re along for the ride!
  - 15.5.5. Carol Rempel – thanks again for the financial support. Joe has gifts that need to be freed and it helps when he doesn’t need to be too concerned about money issues. Some think that Moose Jaw is spiritually and economically dead but it’s not and things are happening! The time between Regal Heights’ closing and now has been a time of breaking ground and hearts are ready. Now is the time for the miracle to begin. Asked for the Conference’s continued support in any and every way.
  - 15.5.6. Joe Almeida – drew an analogy with spending money on soccer players to spending money on God’s players. Ran a PowerPoint presentation.
  - 15.5.7. Andrew led in a time of prayer over the PWC group.
- 15.6. Future plans? We will investigate... we will check out all possibilities.
- 15.7. *Andrew Fehr / Gerry Epp ~ That the Board of Church Extension Report be accepted as presented. Carried*

## **16. Ministry Leadership Development Team Report ~ Dwayne Barkman**

- 16.1. Introduced the Team: Darren Holland, Larry Speiser, Pat Dergoussoff (Secretary), and Phil Gunther (Advisor)
- 16.2. Our prayer can be summed up by Luke 10:2.

- 16.3. Commented about how the Canadian Conference Leadership Development Team and ours have been working together and are on very similar tracks.
- 16.4. Time line: Draft #1 by June 2004; Draft #2 by August 2004; Test Runs September to October 2004; Final draft for recommendation to the Council of Boards by January 2005.
- 16.5. Range of information gathering and consultation: Canadian Conference Millennium Project TEAM; Pastoral interviews; interviews with leaders from Bethany College, Millar College of the Bible and Briercrest Schools; MB Biblical Seminary/Bethany “bringing six courses to Sask” Team; other denominations’ strategy of leadership development; and other Provincial Executive Directors.

16.6. Operative guide:

What we bring forward must be:

- Biblical
- tangible
- useful
- do-able
- practical

Likely action carriers:

- teaching
- coaching (mentor, intern, network coaching)
- supporting (financial)
- promotion / information
- resourcing
- forums

16.7. Key Result Areas:

- 16.7.1. Build an environment where ministry and leadership development can thrive
- 16.7.2. Develop a profile/description of an emerging leader
- 16.7.3. Strategize for leadership development in key stage groups of leadership
- 16.7.4. Funding and fundraising
- 16.7.5. Propose a Ministry Leadership Development Team that can work within the conference structure.

16.8. Wendy Sawatsky – Redberry Bible Camp - Her MB background is deep. Her father is an MB Pastor, she attended and lead youth group, and then took the Counselor In Training program at Redberry. This facilitated her being able to go back to serve more strongly in your home church. You get an increased level of responsibility each year as you step up the ladder. Deuteronomy 10:17 has been an encouragement to her and she shares it with other leaders she works with. Encouraging to see the growth of leaders and counselors; she’s now one of two associate directors!

16.9. Brent Kreuger – internship at Grand Forks, attending Bethany College – He grew up in Hodgeville, attended Kelstern Community Church, Caronport High School, Briercrest Bible College, and Bethany College. Was involved in worship leading at Glad Tidings Bible Camp in Mossbank. Received countless affirmations over the years. Bethany gave many leadership development opportunities. He did an internship last summer at Grand Forks Gospel Chapel - two months as worship pastor, two months chapel and music director, assisted in the Children’s Ministry at Camp, and started a PowerPoint team and a worship team.

16.10. Dwayne shared how he is seeing that students need our support and affirmation.

16.11. *Dwayne Barkman / Phil Gunther ~ That the Ministry Leadership Development Team Report be accepted as presented. Carried*

16.12. Ron shared about what a blessing it is to see different ages involved together and encouraged more of it.

**17. Board of Faith and Life Report ~ Clarence Peters**

17.1. Expressed the Board’s appreciation for Ralph’s faithful ministry.

17.2. The Board can and does serve in a mediation role where requested to do so.

17.3. The Staff Conduct Policy is now linked to licensing.

- 17.4. Dialogued and met with MCC over aboriginal spirituality and Christ being the only way to salvation. The meeting confirmed that MCC is on track theologically. They challenged MCC to remain true to the values of the founding Conferences.
- 17.5. Galatians 2:9-10 describes MCC's call to ministry.
- 17.6. *Clarence Peters / Randy Chase ~ That the Board of Faith and Life Report be accepted as presented. Carried*

#### **18. Board of Management Report ~ Ross Hardy**

- 18.1. Ross thanked the churches for their increased support. It was an interesting year, financially-speaking; always on the edge, but finishing well.
- 18.2. Liability Insurance issue is still not settled. A Group Policy is still a possibility. Questions have been raised around if our churches should be individually incorporated.
- 18.3. Confessed that he was almost ready to pull the plug on Prairie Winds Church until he had the privilege to go there and see personally what God was doing.
- 18.4. Sale of the former Moose Jaw (Regal Heights) property is almost finished. Sold them the land and gave them the building, agreeing to take monthly payments.
- 18.5. Regina Chinese Community Church closed this year. He and Ralph Gliege went down and picked up whatever goods and records were left and placed it in storage. On a positive note, they felt that considering all the help that they received from the Conference and Parliament Community Church they needed to give something back so they gave both the Conference and PCC approximately \$20,000 each, clearing out their cash assets.
- 18.6. Issues that are on the horizon include:
  - 18.6.1. Funding for the Ministry Leadership Development Team's plans
  - 18.6.2. Counseling legality and liability issues
  - 18.6.3. Confidentiality of personal information
- 18.7. Secretary-Treasurer Pat Dergousoff stepped through and explained the 2003 Financial and Auditor's Reports.
- 18.8. Ross thanked his fellow Board members for serving with him.
- 18.9. Question from Joe Almeida about why the close-out funds from the Regina Chinese Community Church did not appear as revenue in the operating fund.
- 18.10. Answer by Ross Hardy, that these funds were considered to be an outright gift and the feeling was that the money should not be brought in as general operating revenue but placed in a reserve fund, set aside for some sort of special use.
- 18.11. *Ross Hardy / Maurice van Nes ~ That the 2003 Financial and Auditor's Reports be approved as presented. Carried*

#### **19. Convention format ~ Ron Dyck**

- 19.1. Encouraged feedback on the revised Convention format.
- 19.2. Ron led the Convention is singing the Doxology before lunch.

The Convention recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

#### **20. Bethany College Report ~ Rick Schellenberg**

- 20.1. Missions has been and will continue to be a focus for Bethany. Students learned much and had meaningful spiritual experiences while on short-term missions trips. The following missions trips were made this year:
  - 20.1.1. freshmen partnered with MB churches and parachurch organizations in four cities
  - 20.1.2. Juniors trekked north to work on First Nations reserves near La Ronge

- 20.1.3.** Seniors headed for Peru for a three week venture that included work with MBMSI and Wycliffe Bible Translators
- 20.2.** The urgency of the message in Ephesians 5:15-17 is the same when it was originally written as now. Looking at what's happening in this world, we need the Message now more than ever. We need to hear God, be grounded in the Word of God, and learn to follow God as He leads. One of the good ways to do this is at Bible College.
- 20.3.** What does Leadership Development look like on a college campus? What does a leader look like at 22 years old? These are the questions that Bethany faculty wrestle with, as do the Saskatchewan and Canadian Conferences, and MBBS.
- 20.4.** Leaders are just disciples who have learned to make more disciples – the character doesn't change for what God wants from a disciple.
- 20.5.** What do we need to teach and show students today?
- 20.6.** Doug Heidebrecht is shifting to Instruction from Academic Dean; they need prayer to find the right replacement.
- 20.7.** Lisa Braun will be taking a maternity leave as Athletic Director.
- 20.8.** Promoted the Elmer Martens Jeremiah course being offered by MBBS at Bethany.
- 20.9.** Pastor's can now submit names of worthy youth leaders for a full year's tuition grant. Jeff Klassen & Cody Reimer got last year's.
- 20.10.** Just finished an accreditation visit and things look very positive.
- 20.11.** In these evil days, God needs people like us to listen for His lead and have the courage to completely follow it.

## **21. Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary Report ~ Jim Holm**

- 21.1.** Jim made a tongue-in-cheek comparison of two leadership races – California Governor and MBBS President.
- 21.2.** Jim's passion is to produce pastors who produce pastors, quoting Matthew 28:18-20.
- 21.3.** They are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.
- 21.4.** They have three locations with 260 students in total, 80 Canadian MB students with 8 from Saskatchewan.
- 21.5.** Introduced Dave Tiechrob who works in Constituency Relations and Donor Development.
- 21.6.** Pursuing partnerships with Bethany College and the Canadian Conference.
- 21.7.** Shared some stories:
  - 21.7.1.** Don & Lavonne Harms – first came to MBBS with Ministry Quest to chaperone youth, felt God's call on their own hearts, and returned to attend.
  - 21.7.2.** Jeff & Connie Peters - came to Seminary and are now candidating at their home church. Jeff started and organized a prayer program at Seminary.
  - 21.7.3.** Cam Roland - started talking about Seminary 6-7 years ago but his wife wanted no part of it. Became a student for his Master of Arts for two years and then came on staff for two years. Mentoring and spiritual formation were strong points during their time there. Everyone is on a first name basis; there is informal and formal discernment support, spiritual community and spiritual formation.

## **22. Redberry Bible Camp Report ~ Jim Nightingale**

- 22.1.** The key question is "What can we do together that we can't do separately?"
- 22.2.** Redberry and Bethany both wouldn't be here if it were left to one church to do. Quoted Ecclesiastes 4:12 in support.
- 22.3.** Viewed a PowerPoint presentation
- 22.4.** We can all benefit if we work together, helping each other be the best we can be.
- 22.5.** Invited questions about their vision and how their expansion project fits into all of this.
- 22.6.** Imagine the possibilities!

**23. Westbank Bible Camp Report ~ Ray Dueck**

- 23.1. Camp has been operating for 60 years.
- 23.2. They now have a full summer of camps with 50% non-churched youth attending.
- 23.3. They offer crafts, horses, swimming lessons, chapels, devotionals, canoeing, climbing wall, archery, pellety, camp cooking and a lot of loud and lively music.
- 23.4. They try to create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of the young people.
- 23.5. 50-60 received Christ as their personal Savior last summer; usually at about 10%
- 23.6. The previous Director Brent Alexander did much to improve camp, especially in the area of leader/counselor training. They had 12 applicants for the position and ended up calling Jerry and Liz Dennill.
- 23.7. They are located on the banks of Swift Current Creek with good and poor buildings; washrooms are needed and building fund has been started.
- 23.8. To date they are financially flush.

**24. Nominations Report & Elections ~ Henry Braun & Rod Dick**

- 24.1. Henry Braun said that as he gets older, he is more and more amazed with how the Lord raises up leaders.
- 24.2. Henry thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee, went over their report, and introduced all the nominees.
- 24.3. *Maurice van Nes / Mel Wiens ~ That Ron Dick be affirmed as Assistant Moderator. Carried*
- 24.4. *Rod Dick / Bob Beesely ~ That nominations cease for all Board positions. Carried*
- 24.5. *Lucille Wall / Larry Speiser ~ That all nominees for Board positions contained in the Nomination Report be affirmed. Carried*
- 24.6. *Rod Dick / Menno Martens ~ That nominations cease for appointments to Carmel House, Mennonite Trust, Menno Home and the MCC Board. Carried*
- 24.7. *Scott Loewen / Dan Siebert ~ That the nominees for appointments to Carmel House, Mennonite Trust, Menno Home and the MCC Board be affirmed. Carried*
- 24.8. *Ross Hardy / Bob Beesely ~ That the appointment of Archie Jantzen and Lucille Wall to the Nominating Committee be affirmed. Carried*
- 24.9. The following is a list of appointments made:

Assistant Moderator	2006	Ron Dyck
Board of Church Extension	2006	Greg Bright
	2006	Calvin Penner
	2006	Scott Loewen
Board of Management	2006	Todd Hardy
	2006	Bob Beesely
	2006	Albert Klassen
Board of Faith and Life	2006	Terry Froese
	2006	Stephen White
	2006	Neil Krahn
Carmel House	2006	Bob Climehaga

Mennonite Trust	2006	Wayne Harms
Menno Home	2006	Gwen Loewen
MCC Board	2006 2006	Scott Siemens John Unrau
Nominating Committee	2006 2005	Archie Jantzen Lucille Wall

## 25. 2004 Operating Budget ~ Ross Hardy

- 25.1. Ross referred to the Church Donations Report and then went over the proposed 2004 Operating Budget.
- 25.2. Wayne Harms from West Portal Church - commented that West Portal does not base their giving on the Conference norm, but instead tithes back 20% of all revenue to outside ministries.
- 25.3. Answer - The \$65 is used by many as a guide.
- 25.4. Peter Falk from Prairie Winds Church– Question as to how the funds received for the sale of the Moose Jaw property will be handled.
- 25.5. Answer – intent is to set it aside in a reserve fund to be used as a pool for purposes yet to be determined.
- 25.6. Randy Chase from Woodrow Gospel Chapel – Randy reported that his church board feels that considering the present situation in the agricultural economy, now is not the time to pass an increased budget and that he has been instructed to vote against the proposed budget unless it is amended.
- 25.7. Mel Wiens from Hillside Christian Fellowship in Beechy– Seems that we had a similar discussion at the last convention around a faith budget and the use of norms. Noted that the math on the norms adds up to more than the amount necessary to meet expenditures.
- 25.8. Answer – The norm has indeed been inflated due to some not being able to reach the norm, but others tend to make up the difference. Norms are a struggle, but it's the best system that we have.
- 25.9. Wayne Harms – Would it be prudent to keep the donations at last year's level and plan to balance the books by transferring an exact amount from previous years surpluses early in the year?
- 25.10. Answer – Reserve funds will be accessed if revenue does not come in as planned. There is future potential for programs (Ministry Leadership Development Team, etc) that could tap heavily into reserves.
- 25.11. *Ross Hardy / Maurice van Nes ~ That the proposed 2004 Operating Budget be approved as presented. Carried*
- 25.12. Rod said that it would be good if we could find a better way to do this, but it's the best option at this time. We need to find a better process that would facilitate earlier dialogue on important issues such as budget.

## 26. Kindred Productions Report ~ Olivia Hardy

- 26.1. Kindred Productions is the publishing arm of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches. Olivia is one of three representatives across Canada. All are married to stewardship representatives and travel together.
- 26.2. Get to meet and work with a lot of good people, but on the down side, they are not in their home church very often.
- 26.3. They put on about 25-30,000 kms/yr.

- 26.4. Kindred is not well known to a lot of people; Olivia gave a short history from its start in the US in 1966 to the present where it is owned by the Canadian Conference with an annual subsidy from the US Conference.
- 26.5. Reviewed the product types they carry.

**27. Family Life Network Report ~ Lorlie Barkman**

- 27.1. Thank you for your prayer support and financial gifts.
- 27.2. Broadcasting in television and radio in seven different languages.
- 27.3. Made two trips into Saskatchewan last year. One was to the Christmas program at the MB Church in Foam Lake and the other was with Connecting Points with Kids when they did a southern Saskatchewan tour of MB Churches.
- 27.4. Connecting cross-generationally is a real emphasis for FLN.
- 27.5. Did a "values" presentation at the Hodgeville Elementary School (a public school!).

**28. Canadian Mennonite University Report ~ Len Sawatsky**

- 28.1. Len is with the Development Department and brings greetings from Gerald Gerbrandt, the new President of the university.
- 28.2. There are 193 full time students.
- 28.3. They are mourning the untimely accidental death of Diane Koekker who drowned recently in Guatemala; she will be missed by family and partners in ministry.
- 28.4. Gerald Gerbrandt has been President since June 15<sup>th</sup> of last year.
- 28.5. Previous President John Unger is now Senior Pastor at Fort Garry MB Church.
- 28.6. Went from three governing boards to a single integrated board in October 2003.
- 28.7. Mission Statement = CMU is an innovative Christian university rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, moved and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Through education, research and service CMU inspires and equips women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.
- 28.8. New programs starting this fall; building a new residence starting in either May or September of this year.
- 28.9. The CMU Choir will be performing twice in Saskatchewan this year.
- 28.10. Left the delegates with 1 Peter 2:9.

**29. Mennonite Central Committee Report ~ Bruno Baerg**

- 29.1. Greetings on behalf of MCC and our partners around the world.
- 29.2. MBs started MCC and still play a big role in all that they do.
- 29.3. The goal is to demonstrate God's love in many different ways.
- 29.4. Invited delegates to look at the fact sheet enclosed in the Convention packages for a list of workers & countries involved.
- 29.5. It's interesting how the Congolese church is asking to have input into how we interpret scripture here in North America.
- 29.6. MCC works towards the dignity of all.
- 29.7. We are witnesses in all we do and how we live out our faith.
- 29.8. What has Christ called us to be? How can MCC blow their own horn a bit more?
- 29.9. Invited the delegates to come in to see the renovations at their facility. School tours are coming through already.
- 29.10. Introduced MCC Board Members Lucille Wall, Archie Jantzen, and Scott Siemens.
- 29.11. Asked for everyone's prayer and guidance.

**30. Mennonite Trust Report ~ Cory Regier**

- 30.1. Mennonite Trust is owned by the Mennonite Church of Saskatchewan, The Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Conference of

Mennonite Brethren Churches with the Head Office located in Waldheim and branch offices in Saskatoon and Swift Current.

**30.2. Services they provide are:**

- 30.2.1. Estate planning**
- 30.2.2. Wills**
- 30.2.3. Mortgages and loans**
- 30.2.4. Income Tax preparation**
- 30.2.5. Guaranteed investments**
- 30.2.6. Accounting services**
- 30.2.7. Savings accounts**

**30.3. Some years, they are able to return a portion of their net profit to the owning denominations (\$3400.00 to the Saskatchewan Conference in 2004)**

**31. Mennonite Mission Network Report ~ Scott Siemens**

**31.1. We are missing domestic short-term mission opportunities for youth and young adults.**

**31.2. We have MB youth who are not finding service opportunities within the MB Church, so they find themselves looking to other denominations and para-church organizations.**

**31.3. Youth are breaking down denominational boundaries with their passion to serve.**

**32. Carmel House Report ~ Marie Speiser**

**32.1. Carmel House is a boys group home with five distinctives:**

- 32.1.1. Governance - governed by a board chosen by affiliate bodies of MCC-SK**
- 32.1.2. Staffing - can employ only believers**
- 32.1.3. Funding - licensed and funded by the province**
- 32.1.4. Opportunities - work with a diverse group of people outside the group home**
- 32.1.5. Outcomes - good things keep happening!**

**32.2. Government has restrictions about proselytizing, but they can't stop God from working!**

**32.3. Shared one story about how a client came to the home from virtually no family life at all, and what he did have for family abandoned him. He became a Christian after attending a youth retreat, and it changed his life for the better. A second story was about how another boy wanted to live at Carmel House because of all the love that was there.**

**32.4. Carmel House is a boys home with a difference... a difference that makes an eternal difference in young boys' lives.**

**33. Canadian Bible Society Report ~ Len Bachiu**

**33.1. This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Bible Society; the Canadian Bible Society was incorporated in 1906.**

**33.2. Their Vision Statement is, "To reach every man, woman and child with the life-giving word of God and to encourage its use."**

**33.3. They work behind the scenes with:**

- 33.3.1. translation**
- 33.3.2. distribution (print, cassette, video)**
- 33.3.3. proclamation events**

**34. Closing ~ Rod Dick**

**34.1. Rod thanked FGCC for the great meals and super facilities.**

**34.2. Ron encouraged the Boards to have a reorganization meeting before they leave.**

**34.3. Ralph closed in prayer.**

**35. Adjournment**

**35.1. Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**