

**MINUTES OF THE 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BROTHER CHURCHES  
MARCH 12 & 13, 2010  
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ MEADOW LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN  
FRIDAY MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**1. WELCOME ~ MODERATOR RON DYCK**

- 1.1. Called the Convention to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 1.2. Welcomed all to the geographic centre of Saskatchewan and surveyed the crowd for those from Saskatchewan that travelled the furthest to get here.
- 1.3. Welcomed guests: Len Bachiu of the Canadian Bible Society; Rob Neufeld, Joy Lise Nokinsky, and Dan Guggenheimer of Bethany College; Lloyd Letkeman and Natasha Derksen of Mennonite Brethren Mission Service International; SK Conference staff Ralph & Grace Gliege, Dwayne & Irma Barkman and Pat & Gina Dergousoff; Claire Ewert Fisher and Dave Pauls of Mennonite Central Committee - Saskatchewan; Dorothy & Harold Siebert of Family Life Network; David Wiebe, Robert Bell, Karla Braun & Ross Hardy of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches; Dave & Helen Teigrob of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary; Jeff Siemens of Redberry Bible Camp; Jerry Dennill of West Bank Bible Camp.
- 1.4. Lead Pastor of Northwest Community Church Dan Stobbe welcomed delegates to the Convention and to Meadow Lake. This gathering reminded him of the Acts 15 Council in Jerusalem discussions. Gave a facility & food services orientation. Thanked the billets. Drew attention to the "harvest" equipment display. Opened the Convention in prayer.

**2. PRAISE & WORSHIP ~ NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CHURCH'S WORSHIP TEAM**

- 2.1. The NWCC worship team led a time of Spirit-filled worship centered around the theme of the Cross.

**3. DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MINISTRIES RALPH GLIEGE & DIRECTOR OF HARVEST SASKATCHEWAN DWAYNE BARKMAN**

**3.1. Ralph:**

- 3.1.1. Started with a declaration that God is at work! God is with us and within us in the work; there will be hardships but with God's help we will overcome these hardships.
- 3.1.2. Matthew 9:37 – we must pray for more workers, but there's always more work.
- 3.1.3. Matthew 13 – there will always be hardships, conflicts and misunderstandings.
- 3.1.4. Galatians 6:9 – don't become weary from doing good.
- 3.1.5. Anticipating hardships, being proactive helps head off and make hardships survivable.
- 3.1.6. Jesus was the greatest example of an overcomer of hardships and is the means by which we too can overcome. Sharing the Lord's Supper tonight, we will draw our attention back to Jesus, "taking in Jesus".

**3.2. Dwayne:**

- 3.2.1. Our hardships pale in comparison to what Jesus faced!
- 3.2.2. Largest tension comes between those who want to hold onto something they hold dear and others who want to press on in a different direction, at times even questioning the commitment and spirituality of the other.
- 3.2.3. Environmental/cultural shifts: finding workers is harder to do all the time.
- 3.2.4. Congregational tension object lesson
  - 3.2.4.1. A length of surgical tubing was held by two volunteers at opposite sides of the stage and tightened up... creative tension. Dwayne then went through the era shifts in the chart below taken from the book titled The Tangible

Kingdom. The volunteers tightened the tubing with each shift until... it snapped... with Dwayne in the middle!

***We Are Experiencing A Major Shift In Eras***

<b>Area of Shift</b>	<b>Modern</b>	<b>Post Modern</b>
• Why we believe	Reason	Preference
• How we view relationship	Autonomous	Pluralistic
• What we value	Security	Immediate gratification
• How we influence	Institutions	Deconstruction
• How we measure success	Products and programs	Justification
• How we view evangelism	Attractional	Incarnational

**3.3. Ralph:**

**3.3.1.** Dwayne was in the same position as Jesus when He was in between the Old Testament sacrificial systems and the New Covenant, knowing the tension, knowing the hardship to come, knowing that he needed to go through it.

**3.3.2.** "My Body Broken For You" – communion, invited all to deliberately go and get a bun of bread just as Jesus went deliberately and willingly to the cross, to break the bun in two just as Jesus' body was broken, and then to hold those pieces.

**3.3.3. Overcoming Physical Hardships**

**3.3.3.1.** Asked questions of Carol Siebert – Moderator at Main Centre MB Church regarding Pastor Ken Epp's cancer diagnosis and treatment; first thoughts and emotions shared; church has been carrying on, people chipping in, a former pastor preached some; Pastor Ken balanced fighting for life and resigning himself to God's plan for him; element of hope still present; story about the day before Epps left for Germany for treatments, hit an elk on the way to the plane, car died, strangers dropped them at Pastor Ken Sperling's in Lucky Lake, and the Sperlings "just happened" to be going to Saskatoon the next day and dropped them off at the airport JUST in time for their flight! Confirmed to them that God is in control and Ken will be OK. Ken's back on a part time basis & congregants has learned through his example. Dwayne's post modern list of traits described Pastor Ken exactly, just now the traits are amplified. The SK Conference gave small gifts to Ken and the church and were deeply appreciated. Carol thanked Ralph and the Conference for all their support & prayers. Everyone ate one of the pieces of bread.

**3.3.4. Overcoming Shifts in Ministry:**

**3.3.4.1.** Asked questions of Clint Hartog of Herbert Youth Centre: A typical week? Herbert has 700 people with 7 churches, and youth are encouraged to go to their youth centre; the youth come from a wide range of economic and social backgrounds so a week can include everything from snow-boarding to attending court; lost their building to a developer, closed the doors... their "Third Place" was lost, churches got together to find a building and with God's blessing ended up creating a youth centre that opened in March; told about Joe who comes from a very broken home and prefers to be at the youth centre rather than at home; Clinton is now a community youth director funded by all the participating churches; need prayers for continued unity; ate the second half of the bun as a commitment to the Lord that we'll overcome hardship and not quit.

**3.3.5. Overcoming Hardships in Finding Leaders: – Internal Hiring**

**3.3.5.1.** Phil Gunther (Kristen Durston) - God didn't let any other responses come from their advertising, forcing them to look under their noses and see Kristen; they'll look internally first next time!

- 3.3.5.2. Kelly Wiebe (Katrina Funk); Kelly was hired from within and now Katrina; need a mindset shift... just because we are in a certain position, we do not have to do it all ourselves... and once we have people in place, we have to intentionally connect with, build into and support them; gave a personal example of how his mother was an Awana volunteer and for the whole year, nobody checked in with her... she was done; advantages of hiring from within - relationships are already there (but they will change), 75-80% chance of success hiring internally versus 50% otherwise.
- 3.3.6. Overcoming Shifts in Ministry Location:
  - 3.3.6.1. Ralph read a letter prepared by Pastor Tony Martens about the congregation's journey in transplanting the Borden MB Church from the country into the village of Borden.
  - 3.3.6.2. This was a transplant because it was both a relocation of the place of worship and a plant because the move offered the opportunity to establish and new vision with new people. The result was Riverbend Fellowship (MB).
  - 3.3.6.3. The Lord blessed them with a freshness and life beyond what they experienced in their rural location, going from an average attendance of 38 to in the 50's with new attenders blessing the new community of believers.
  - 3.3.6.4. The expertise and guidance of Harvest Saskatchewan, especially Dwayne Barkman was invaluable as they waded through uncharted waters.
  - 3.3.6.5. Their sense of mission and desire to be among the people in the public square influenced their decision to not buy a building and instead rent a community hall.
  - 3.3.6.6. Their theme is "Living. Differently."
- 3.3.7. "My Blood Shed for You" After introductory comments, attenders were invited to take a goblet of juice and return to their seats.
- 3.4. Dwayne:
  - 3.4.1. Tension in the church does different things to different people; unity likewise does different things to different people, and not-yet-believers are watching.
  - 3.4.2. We are shifting from being attractal to going out Incarnationally.
  - 3.4.3. Observations:
    - 3.4.3.1. Stay calm in the rough waters
    - 3.4.3.2. Don't take shortcuts in the process of change, listen to the fears of those who will be affected by the change; talk those fears out
    - 3.4.3.3. Have a gracious spirit
    - 3.4.3.4. Pass the torch to the next generation and keep it missional
    - 3.4.3.5. Be open to new expressions of the church
    - 3.4.3.6. Be clear on the irreducible minimum of the church
    - 3.4.3.7. Keep a healthy "tension" (on the bungee cord) and don't let it snap
    - 3.4.3.8. Be Incarnational; walk in Jesus' shoes
  - 3.4.4. Drank the juice.

#### 4. **CLOSING ~ RON DYCK**

- 4.1. Isn't it amazing how God moves?
- 4.2. Invited Northwest Community Church to join tomorrow's proceedings.
- 4.3. Thanked Pastor Matthew Roger for bringing the worship session together.
- 4.4. Dan recognized the NWCC's Convention Team: Wendy Sargent; Kathy Stobbe; Janice Madsen & Connie Rowland.
- 4.5. Closing prayer at 9:05 p.m.

**SATURDAY MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**5. OPENING ~ MODERATOR RON DYCK**

5.1. Ron called the Convention back to order at 8:20 a.m.

5.2. The Northwest Community Church Worship Team led in a time of worship.

**6. DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MINISTRIES / BOARD OF FAITH & LIFE REPORT ~ RALPH GLIEGE**

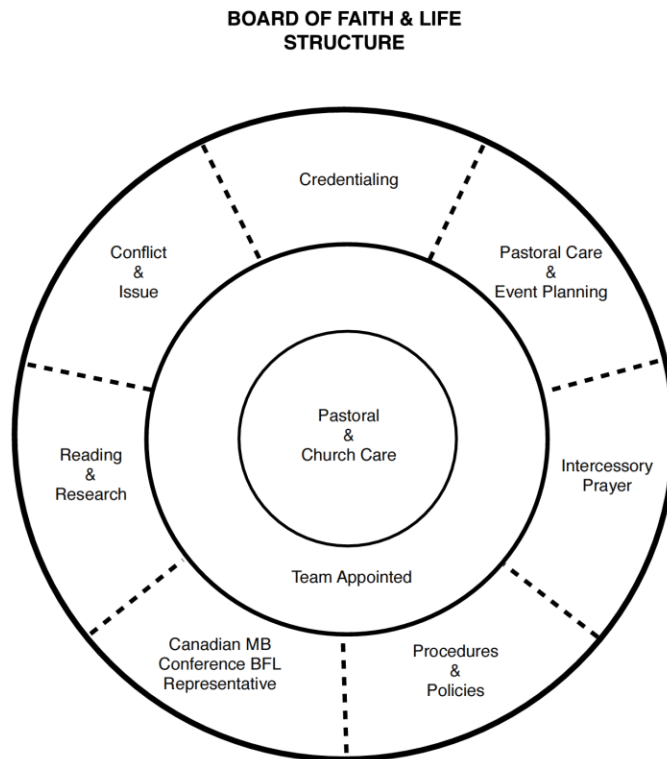
6.1. 1Tim 6: 20-21 sums up the Board's mandate.

6.2. Referred to his personal report in the delegate handbook, inviting all to read the report carefully and take the challenges within it to heart.

6.3. Fear seems to be a common thread within the Conference, evidenced by less hope, faith & joy; if you don't succumb to fear you'll instead be helpful, hopeful, faithful and joyful.

6.4. Introduced the Board members.

6.5. Board is in the process of restructuring; described the various areas of emphasis, as portrayed in the diagram below. The concept is to have areas of emphasis without being territorial.



6.6. Houses have changed over the generations, so it should be with the Church. Ralph grew up with the "believe-become-belong" spiritual pathway paradigm. Steve Wiebe, Pastor at Wynyard Gospel Church shared about three un-churched young ladies who have recently joined their fellowship, they were welcomed, feel that they "belong", and are considering further faith steps; have to learn to live with the messy stuff of not-yet-Christian life to be able to impact our communities for Christ; the church's slogan is now "Belong-Believe-Become"; they have a pre-school club that is building relationships, he is considering becoming a volunteer Chaplain with the RCMP.

- 6.7.** The Board uses a ministry questionnaire form to determine the compatibility of a pastoral candidate with our denomination and they also affirm pastors for ordination to the gospel ministry. Ralph invited Pastor Dion Grimm of Kelstern Community Church to give his ordination testimony.

Dion became a Christian at 16; grew up in a non-Christian home in Penticton, BC; parents divorced when he was 12 and he blamed himself; nobody home after school, so he played a lot of hockey and with one friend, they prayed before eating; Dion's music preference was hard rock and the praying friend gave him a Christian rock band tape of a group called Petra, carefully wrote out the words, got impacted, and then Steven Curtis Chaplain, then Michael Smith; Michael Green youth rally held, first night was music and then next day Michael spoke (Dion's wife-to-be was there... the reason he came the second night!), got prayed for on the way out, had a prayer time at the beach, praying in a circle, he was going to pass, but to his surprise he prayed for Christ to be the Lord of his life! That was May & then got baptized on his birthday in August. Went into youth ministry, had too much fun at Bible college, went back home and proposed to Tammy, they got married and went back to college. First church experience was in a church in Osoyoos BC, a very bad experience, was going to leave but decided to stay on until after the Lead Pastor died of cancer. Creston was a strong rebuilding time, his hopes to become the lead pastor didn't materialize, then HIS plan that he thought the Lord would go along with didn't come together either. Contacted Ralph, came to Hodgeville and it had nothing like the specs he gave God; candidated; got called and it's been a year and a half and God has been good!

The Board wishes to recommend Dion Grimm as a candidate for ordination. This recommendation has been approved by the Executive Board and Ralph brought the recommendation forward. Convention stood in affirmation. Moderator Helmut Ohlman invited everyone to join them for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Ordination Ceremony which is being held in conjunction with the church's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

- 6.8.** The Board very intentionally comes along side pastors considering sabbaticals. Using Jason Dyck, Associate Pastor at Dalmeny, Ralph gave an example of how they typically get involved: gave Jason two books to read, Jason provided his sabbatical plan, improvements were suggested, three month sabbatical starts on April 1<sup>st</sup> at which time Ralph would attend the send-off. Ralph then gave Jason another book and informed him that they'll be getting a free night's stay at a SK resort. Pastors Steve White of Lanigan, Justin Klassen of Waldheim, and Phil Gunther of Regina will also be going on Sabbaticals this coming year.
- 6.9.** Archie and Erna Jantzen were invited up. Ralph told the story about how the tradition to give each pastor couple touques started in the fall of 1997; touque #303 was just presented to Intern Pastor Levi Adams of Forest Grove Community Church. Archie & Erna were presented with two zero gravity chairs as a token of appreciation and recognition for the "touque ministry".
- 6.10.** Ralph is fascinated with cemeteries. Introduced Fern and Ed Goll of Glaslyn who asked for permission to clean up the MB cemetery at Speedwell. Fern explained that they arranged for name tags to be made for the cemetery; three sidewalk slabs on each grave funded by family members' donations and they're all done, even those that didn't want to participate. The cemetery is located on Jackpine Road. Thanked them for being an inspiration and presented them with two zero gravity chairs.
- 6.11.** Gerry & Eleanor Epp will be retiring this summer after 26½ years of ministry in Blaine Lake; couldn't attend this Convention because he's ministering to a bereaved family. They are presently our longest serving pastor couple!

## **7. Harvest Saskatchewan Report ~ Dwayne Barkman & Shane Peters**

**7.1.** Dwayne introduced Shane Peters, the new Harvest Saskatchewan Team Chair.

**7.2.** Three areas of emphasis:

**7.2.1.** Making missional disciples

**7.2.2.** Raising missional leaders

**7.2.3.** Shaping & creating missional churches and initiatives

**7.3.** Read out a note he found written in a Gideon Bible; a scathing observation of Christians... how would you reach a person like that?

**7.4.** The Team has been working mostly on theory and are now putting it into action.

**7.5.** Interviews:

**7.5.1.** Shane Peters introduced Colleen Balogh of West Portal Church in Saskatoon: Christmas remembrance service held with financial assistance from Project Reach YOUR World; her husband died in 2006 and she joined a Grief Share group at the invitation of a workplace friend and through the process, she accepted Christ and He carried her through it and continues to walk with her

**7.5.2.** Dwayne introduced Dwayne Dahlside and Celena Gonie of Pierceland Community Church: What "hasn't" the Lord done! He used Victor Gonie to be the Pastor; an ex-addict is preaching; healings are happening in person and in proxy. Project Reach YOUR World funds were used for a vacation Bible school that richly blessed the community; most of the 70 that came were not-yet-believers. A Youth Group has started, they are putting on movie nights, having a blast, and everyone is being blessed.

**7.5.3.** Jeff Siemens introduced Lucille Wall of Bridgeway Community Church in Swift Current and Clinton Hartog from Herbert who attended the Church Planting Congress in Calgary. Clinton was inspired by the deep Incarnational spirit. Lucille went through tough times before the Congress; she was empty and initially didn't see the point in being there, went anyhow, and was blessed on the way in and then challenged all the while she was there. Clinton was challenged to look at their programs and ask why they are doing what they've always been doing. Lucille realized that missional is a lifestyle, not just something that you periodically do; we need to discover where God is sending us and go! Clinton was impacted that God's mission has a church not the other way around; too many people tiptoe through life just to arrive at death safely.

**7.5.4.** Shane Peters introduced Pastor Kelly Wiebe of West Portal Church who explained that Pods are a collection of people who come together to work through a topic, process some curriculum and have accountability relationships; homework is to implement what you're learning. The Tangible Kingdom Pod is centred around a book by the same name that works through attractional versus Incarnational church models, leading into application. If nobody is following, we'd better change what we're doing. "Begin in me." How do we shift to become relevant to not only the un-churched but also those who fill our pews? Need to realize that we're not taking God out there, He's already there and we're joining Him!

**7.5.5.** Shane introduced Howie Wall of Forest Grove Community Church in Saskatoon who is leading a moderators Pod. Lay leaders need development, accountability and encouragement. Moderators are in a key position to either help or hinder. Three foci for the Pod: servant leadership, governance issues, working with pastors. Howie invited moderators to consider connecting. Recommended the book titled Missional Renaissance. God is at work, we just need to join Him.

**7.5.6.** Dwayne introduced Pastor Bruce Enns of Forest Grove Community Church: Howie Wall, Abe Klassen and Bruce attended the Exponential Church Planting Congress in Florida, a conference of un-tucked shirts and bald heads! Attending was a confirmation and affirmation of the direction and journey that FGCC was on plus a valuable equipping time. A group of FGCC people met and had good

discussion around a book titled *Forgotten Ways*. Multi-site is being considered very seriously at Forest Grove and options are being prayed through.

**7.6. Dwayne:**

**7.6.1.** If you want to go fast, go with the Conference to plant churches... if you want to go far, go with the churches.

**7.6.2.** Referring to the brochure, Dwayne highlighted and explained the six month Refocusing process that the Canadian Conference of MB Churches is inviting churches to and how the cost is shared between the Canadian & Saskatchewan Conferences and the church. Aimed at having churches with sharp clear visions that have a missional focus. Pastoral changes may be partially related to vision losing its focus. ReFocusing isn't really for churches in trouble, it more for those that are in a season of transition when their vision may be becoming unclear. It helps them re-find their way. Pastor Dan Stobbe: inspired by Hope Fellowship's ReFocusing report at last year's convention, he did the personal refocusing and then took his leaders through it and they are now moving towards God's call for their church. The central value for him personally was to understand his personal passion; the church is working through spiritual warfare challenges as they continue to take steps of faith.

**8. CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY ~ DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT LEN BACHIW**

**8.1.** Biblical literacy is going down; invited to access the resources that the CBS has.

**8.2.** Took everyone through an enthusiastic glimpse of Walk Through The Old Testament

**8.3.** Spoke around the preaching point of how when we try and help God out without Him wanting it, we mess up!

**9. EXECUTIVE ~ MODERATOR ROD DYCK**

**9.1.** Used a slide presentation to frame up his point that change is happening faster all the time; status quo just isn't an option; need to stay calm and engage.

**9.2.** Three things that he does know...

**9.2.1.** God is in control

**9.2.2.** We will continue to listen to the Spirit & you our constituency

**9.2.3.** Want to be proactive as a Conference

**9.3.** We as a Conference have generally embraced the missional mindset, have a love for the lost and are turning more outward focused than inward focused

**9.4.** Challenge issued to get bold and into action.

**9.5.** Ron is part of a missional Christian motorcycle group; told of a fellow biker who drove truck in the winter and even though instructed to not proselytize, couldn't help but share about Christ because he didn't want to come to end of life and find out that people he knew were in hell would be asking why he didn't tell them about Christ... it can be too late too soon.

**10. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ~ CHAIR - ROSS HARDY**

**10.1.** Drew the delegates attention to his report in the Handbook and stepped through highlights: property title transfers, sitting in on a Herbert Manor Board meeting, examined salary scale options; working along-side the Harvest Saskatchewan Team; introduced the Board.

**10.2.** Summarized the financial statements; explained the reorganization of funds to set up for future commitments to the Key Communities Initiative; explained how and why the Yorkton church's loan was written off.

**10.3.** *That the 2009 Financial Statements be accepted as presented.*

*Ross Hardy / Rob Kroeker / Carried*

**10.4.** *That the 2009 Auditor's Report be accepted as presented.*

*Ross Hardy / Rob Kroeker / Carried*

**11. West Bank Bible Camp ~ Director Jerry Dennill**

- 11.1. Jerry shared how he resonated with the direction of the Conference and theme of the Convention.
- 11.2. Changes that have brought him "less work", allowing him to focus elsewhere:
  - 11.2.1. Training/developing leadership from within via relationship; and relationships are flourishing!
  - 11.2.2. Preparing for a different type of volunteer – young retirees coming for weeks at a time, some for the whole summer; they bring joy and a strong work ethic... Fred and Mary Mielke pointed out in the crowd as fine examples of this.
  - 11.2.3. Us four and no more is GONE; three other denominations are joining in (post-modern thinking in action)
- 11.3. Intercessory prayer an increasing emphasis.

**12. Redberry Bible Camp ~ Assistant Director Jeff Siemens**

- 12.1. Video viewed
- 12.2. They have hardships too: keeping things fresh; keeping top notch staff within fiscal restraints; more campers come from broken situations; technological challenges
- 12.3. This year's message is that through His blood, Christ has overcome all that the campers are facing, that they are all chosen, and that they all belong.
- 12.4. Special events on the horizon.
- 12.5. Developing leaders from within and passing them back to the churches to engage in ministry and build into further.
- 12.6. Prayer support is greatly coveted.

**13. Family Life Network ~ Staff Writer & Editor Dorothy Siebert**

- 13.1. She's been so inspired to hear what's happening in the churches in Saskatchewan.
- 13.2. Russia – Half way around the world children start their day watching an FLN children's puppet show.
- 13.3. They work for and with churches to do what churches can't do alone.
- 13.4. "BUGirl" is setting up in Dalmeny today.
- 13.5. The Heartbeat for Harvesting theme got its initial inspiration back in the 1920's.

**14. MB Mission Service International ~ Regional Mobilizer Lloyd Letkeman**

- 14.1. Dan Stobbe shared how God made their intercessory prayer trip to Brazil possible; prayer worked; prayed for and with the Brazilian churches; Brazilians are really Bible aware; good team unity; a thought... what if their team didn't need to tell people that they were changed as a result of their trip, people instead just saw it in them; prayed into and through spiritual warfare.
- 14.2. Lloyd passed along a "hi" from our International Community of Mennonite Brethren brothers and sisters in Brazil.
- 14.3. Promoted their quarterly video series.
- 14.4. Video viewed; requested prayer that people discover that there is absolute truth and that Jesus is the only way, not just one of the ways.

*Recessed for lunch at 12:10 and reconvened 1:10 p.m.*

- 15. Lunch and organizing committee were recognized with a round of thankful applause.
- 16. Prayed for Pastor Andrew Fehr who, just a few moments previously, was just taken to the hospital with health concerns.
- 17. **Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary ~ Director of Advancement Dave Teigrob**
  - 17.1. Brought greetings from President Lynn Jost who planned on attending, but was not able to.
  - 17.2. Thank you for the prayer and financial support.

- 17.3. They aren't satisfied with the status quo either! Change is not only the current buzz word, but is the situation that they find themselves in.
- 17.4. Gave stats on attendance and course take-up
- 17.5. Fresno campus enrollment has been declining, so they are partnering back up again with Fresno Pacific University. Dave Wiebe: By June 1, 2010 the FPU will take over the US assets & staff and MBBS Canada will receive a cash settlement and a student loan fund that had mostly Canadian donors; business will though be mostly as per usual for students; donations will now all stay in Canada; reevaluating seminary delivery with John Unger leading the process; Seminary is our "Hope" Forest that we need to build our future on; please pray.

## **18. Bethany College**

- 18.1. Director of Advancement Joy Lise Nokinsky: It was in a meeting like this back in 1927 that Bethany was birthed with 2 Timothy 2:15 as the motivating verse.
- 18.2. Video shared
- 18.3. Director of Finance Dan Guggenheimer: alumnus of Bethany; parents yearn that their children would accept Christ as their Savior and then learn to live for the Lord; Bethany is the result of the amalgamation of a number of Bible Schools; referenced the financial information on page three of their brochure that shows a less than positive picture but with a goal of breaking even next fiscal year.
- 18.4. Director of Donor Relations Rob Neufeld:
  - 18.4.1. Thanked the churches for their promotion of Biblical higher education, their financial support and their engagement with Bethany ministry teams.
  - 18.4.2. They are having hardships too, but God has been and will be faithful.
  - 18.4.3. Haven't found a President to replace Rick Schellenberg who is on medical leave; Pastor Mike Housek led in prayer for Rick. Referring to their report in the Handbook, he read Don Wiens' request for prayer for a new President.
  - 18.4.4. 138 personal prayer partners for students and staff.
  - 18.4.5. Counts it a privilege to be able to meet with churches and individuals to see how the Lord is working with and through them. Shared two specific alumni stories, one of Emma Berg and the other about Barrett from Boissevain, MB.
- 18.5. *That the financial statement and auditor's report be accepted as presented.*  
*Dan Stobbe / Mike Housek / Carried*

## **19. Canadian Conference of MB Churches ~ Executive Director – Dave Wiebe**

- 19.1. The Canadian Conference's dream/mission is being played out in Saskatchewan!
- 19.2. Saskatchewan's focus is holistic and combined in flavor and approach.
- 19.3. Regenerate 21-01: go where God is calling you, from where you are to serve as He calls; they will help with some tools; building capacity; video shared.
- 19.4. Stewardship Representative Ross Hardy: explained Eagle's Flight as power in clarity of communication, harnessing the potential of the individual and of the team. In some cases, the length of some leadership meetings have reduced by up to 50%!! Faith River Fellowship and the churches in Beechy and Lucky Lake have gone through the process.
- 19.5. Privilege to work with Dwayne Barkman.
- 19.6. This summer is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MB church and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MB church in Canada; video shared; Renewing Identity in Mission; registration is free to churches with 75 and fewer members.
- 19.7. Ron Dyck: this will quite possibly be Dave's last visit to the SK Conference Convention as he is stepping down; recognized Dave for his faithful service and prayed for him.

## **20. Mennonite Central Committee – SK ~ Executive Director Claire Ewert-Fisher**

- 20.1. Olympic athlete Clara Hughes expressed that even though she didn't win gold, she skated her best race; MCC-SK is endeavouring to do the same in fulfilling God's purpose for them.
- 20.2. Their new Mission Statement is... Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.
- 20.3. Mennonites in the global north are now in the minority!
- 20.4. Timber Bay Children's Home: read a prepared statement regarding MCC's involvement in the operation of the Home; a joint letter from MCC-SK and MCC-Canada was written and will be hand delivered to the affected First Nations communities as an invitation to dialogue; asked for prayer as they step towards healing and reconciliation.
- 20.5. \$500,000 came in from Saskatchewan for Haiti relief; professional services were also provided plus materials and supplies were sent.
- 20.6. Bethany College sends their first year students to help at MCC; there was an MCC speaker at Youth Advance; a collaborative (Bethany/MCC) drama about restorative justice will be on tour this spring
- 20.7. Read back some of the quotes from the Convention proceedings that impacted her.

## 21. **Questions to the Boards ~ Ron Dyck**

- 21.1. Pastor Phil Gunther: Board of Faith & Life questions – will the volunteers that will be invited to be a part of the BFL be required to be members of MB churches? Answer: Not at this time. Reply: It would be best if they were. Question - how would the volunteers who were not elected be accountable? Answer: They'd be accountable to the elected Board member who in turn is accountable to the Board. This structure spreads the work load around so that all items that need to be addressed can be.
- 21.2. James Tullock: native population hasn't been mentioned; is there a plan to minister to these people? Answer: Ron- there has been discussion, but there hasn't been solid movement.
- 21.3. Pastor Mike Housek: two articles (not letters to the editor) in the MB Herald seem to question the Creation account; what response can the SK Conference make to it? Answer: the CCMB BFL is meeting in June will have this on its agenda. Dave Wiebe: MB Herald has a limited free press status, and will at times run articles to promote discussion, even though at times it seems that what is included can be understood to be the official position of the Conference.

## 22. **2010 Operating Budget Proposal ~ Ross Hardy**

- 22.1. Recognized Secretary-Treasurer Pat Dergousoff for his work and support.
- 22.2. Reviewed the 2010 proposed budget.
- 22.2. *That the 2010 Operating Budget proposal with a norm of \$60 per member be approved as presented. Ross Hardy / Bob Beesley / Carried*
- 22.3. Phil Gunther: stated that the donations figure is a "forced" number; is that a good accounting practice? Ross: it's not forced as much as the amount needed to top up the amount needed over what can be reclaimed from the CCMB and transfers from SK reserves.

## 23. **ELECTIONS REPORT ~ LUCILLE WALL**

- 23.2. Reviewed the nominations process.
- 23.3. **Assistant Moderator Election ~ Ron Dyck**
  - 23.3.1. *That Todd Hardy be elected to the position of Assistant Moderator with his term expiring 2012.*

*Lucille Wall / Greg Bright / Carried*

**23.4. Election of other Council of Boards positions**

**23.4.1.** Introduced nominees and asked those present to stand.

**23.4.2.** *That the following slate of nominations be accepted:*

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Position/Board</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expiry</u></b>
Ross Hardy	Management	2012
Mike Zwarich	Management	2012
Bob Beasley	Management	2012
Greg Bright	Faith & Life	2012
Darren Holland	Harvest SK	2012
Steve White	Harvest SK	2012
Marion Oatway	Harvest SK	2012
Shane Peters	Harvest SK	2012
Peter D. Block	Mennonite Trust	2012
Janelle Loewen	Bethany College	2013
Trevor Rempel	Bethany College	2013

*Lucille Wall / Dan Stobbe / Carried*

**24.** *That the minutes of the 2009 Convention of the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches be approved with the following corrections:*

**24.2.** Point 12.1. should be Bill Wall.

**24.3.** Lucille Wall's name be removed from point 22.3.2.

**24.4.** The spelling of Teigrob be corrected in point 14.6.

*Ross Hardy / Dan Siebert / Carried*

**25. WRAP-UP ~ RON DYCK**

**25.2.** Called all serving as staff, elected, mentor, mentoree or volunteer basis to the front where they were commissioned and prayed over.

**25.3.** There will be free Grief Share material left at the front for the churches to help themselves to.

**25.4.** Recognized the staff for their contributions.

**25.5.** Commended the Conference for the spirit of unity that is so evident.

**25.6.** Challenged to remember their pastors, moderators and leaders in their prayers, supporting them, encouraging them.

**25.7.** Thanked NWCC church hosting the Convention.

**25.8.** Pastor Dan Stobbe: bag lunches available on the way out; drop off your name tags as you go; offered a closing prayer and blessing

Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Convention registrations:

~ 98 total

~ 72 delegates & 26 guests