

## GAMEO Management Board

### Video Conference

2016 September 6 – 4:00 pm EDT

### Minutes

**Present:** Jon Isaak (Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission), Bert Friesen (Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, chair), John D. Roth (Mennonite World Conference; Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism), Ken Sensenig (Mennonite Central Committee), Jason Kauffman (Mennonite Church USA), Richard Thiessen (Managing Editor), Sam Steiner (Associate Managing Editor, recording secretary).

#### 1) Opening and introductions

Bert Friesen welcomed us to the meeting, especially Jason Kauffman who is representing Mennonite Church USA as Director of the Archives and Records Management.

#### 2) Agenda Review

We accepted the agenda as circulated.

#### 3) Minutes of January 13-14, 2015

**CONSENSUS 1: To accept the minutes of January 13-14, 2015 as circulated.**

#### 4) Managing Editors Report

Richard Thiessen reviewed his report for 2015, which circulated earlier. It provides a statistical snapshot of activity and the size of the encyclopedia as of December 2015. There is a historical disjunction between 2012 and 2013 because of our change to a MediaWiki hosting platform. We changed the way the website was analyzed at the same time. At the end of 2015 GAMEO included 15,938 articles and averaged 1,219 visitors per day. Two hundred new articles were added during 2015.

A highlight of 2015 was attendance at the Mennonite World Conference meetings in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Richard set up a roll-up display, and participated in several workshops, some of them with John Roth.

The most active GAMEO editor in 2015 was Susan Huebert, a volunteer at the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Winnipeg. She is very gifted at detailed editing of articles. She also wrote some original articles.

In 2016 Richard has been mounting some articles originally written for MennLex V. Some of these articles were originally drafted in English, and thus are easy to adapt to GAMEO's needs.

Richard indicated he is through his transition period into his position as director of the Mennonite Heritage Museum in Abbotsford, B.C., and has more time for his volunteer projects.

Sam Steiner described his efforts to modify “In Memoriam” articles published in *Mennonite Quarterly Review* and *Journal of Mennonite Studies* for use in GAMEO. He has also begun to add short congregational articles for newer congregations in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and the Franconia Mennonite Conference.

Bert Friesen described his efforts in helping to adjudicate Hutterite high school history contests in the Schmiedeleut 1 group. He hopes some of these can be worked into GAMEO articles in the next six months.

**CONSENSUS 2: To approve the Managing Editor’s report.**

## **5) Financial Report**

Richard Thiessen reviewed the financial report for 2015 (circulated prior to the meeting) prepared by the Mennonite World Conference accounting office. He said all the partners in the GAMEO project are current, though in a couple of cases two payments got in to one financial year. We also received donations from five sponsors.

Most of the 2015 travel and marketing expenses related to the Mennonite World Conference trip and creating the rollup display. Meal costs related to our meeting last year. Our website hosting costs are typical. MWC takes a small management fee. GAMEO has a balance of \$4,103 (Cdn).

**CONSENSUS 3: To approve the Statement of Operations for 2015 as presented.**

## **6) Budget for 2016**

Richard said that for 2016 we would receive \$1,800 from the partners, and about \$2,000 from sponsors. Expenses will be lower because of no face-to-face meetings, and should not exceed \$1200. This should provide an operating surplus for the year of \$2,600.

**CONSENSUS 4: To approve the 2016 budget as presented**

## **7) GAMEO Direction for Coming Year**

We discussed how to better include the Global South in the GAMEO project. It has been difficult to get a sense of ownership in the project from people in those regions; they see GAMEO as a North American project. Language differences are also an issue. John Roth said he did contact the folks who created the *Lexikon der Mennoniten in Paraguay*. We are able to draw on their existing material. There are also journals in Taiwan, Korea, and elsewhere that could be a source of GAMEO content.

We discussed whether it is realistic to think of GAMEO as a multi-language encyclopedia because of the difficulty in getting buy-in from other language groups. Should we maintain a

global perspective, but consider ourselves an English-language resource going forward? John Roth said we need to be realistic about our capabilities, but encouraged us to not let go of the ideal completely. Perhaps we can keep non-English languages on the agenda, but not as a priority.

We discussed making creation of congregational stubs (basic information on name, location, founding date, current leader, affiliations, contact information) a priority in the next year.

John Roth said Mennonite World Conference is having a regional conference in Kenya in 2018 as part of Renewal 2027. We could do a push for entries for all congregations in Kenya in the next two years. Once stubs are created, local people could create more complete entries. There are similar future events in the Philippines, etc. that could also become a focus.

We could also choose a conference in North America to highlight for congregational entries, e.g. the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

**CONSENSUS 5: To focus on congregational entries in Kenya and a larger U.S. conference in the next year. Jason Kauffman and Richard Thiessen can identify the U.S. conference to be highlighted.**

#### **8) Next Meeting**

We discussed whether our next meeting should follow the video conferencing format, or be in person. We agreed an in person meeting was preferable. Since the last meeting was in Canada, the next meeting should be in the U.S.

**CONSENSUS 6: To plan for the next meeting of the GAMEO Management Board for May 2017 in Goshen/Elkhart, Indiana. Exact date and place to be determined.**

#### **9) Adjournment 4:00 pm EDT**

Minutes recorded by Sam Steiner