

Mennonite Historical Society of Canada  
Archives Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 2, 1997 9:30 a.m  
Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Present: Abe Dueck, Alf Redekopp, Dave Giesbrecht, Lawrence Klippenstein,  
Bert Friesen, Linda Hecht, Victor Wiebe, Sam Steiner

1. Minutes of the December 6, 1996 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. Membership on the archives committee

**AGREED that letters of invitation for a representative on the archives committee be sent to those centres which have regular hours and regular staff. (This would include letters to the provincial societies and funding conferences.) SEE item 4 below for a subsequent agreement.**

3. Mission and Vision Statement

The draft statement attached to the agenda was reviewed and discussed.

**AGREED that a revised statement be prepared for acceptance at the December meeting incorporating the various points made during the discussion.**

4. Working Structure

The "Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia Structure Proposal" prepared by Sam Steiner and Lawrence Klippenstein which suggested that the Archives Committee be quite separate from the Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia Committee was rejected.

**AGREED that there be one committee with a broader name to reflect both parts of the committee's focus and that there be a broader membership.**

5. Background to the Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia (CME) Project

The committee reviewed and discussed the development of the CME project including rationale and arguments for recommending its further development. Some of the discussion included the following statements or opinions: There exists a strong feeling that major paper based reference works such as the five

volume *Mennonite Encyclopedia* will not be sought for much more in the future. Access to reference material will be via on-line electronic media. Cost of producing electronic reference material is likely no more than traditional paper based works. Access to the CME will be free of charge. Libraries in many parts of the world will not be able to afford paper based reference works. Some can't afford it now. Whatever is available electronically can always be printed upon demand or request. An electronic encyclopedia can be updated much more frequently than a paper based work. Can the MHSC maintain such a project indefinitely? If the project were to be discontinued after 10 years due a stop in funding, a product could be produced on CD ROM or its successor. It will be harder to raise funding for an electronic project. This notion should be tested with our traditional funders.

**AGREED** to recommend the development of the CME as a project of the MHSC over a 10 year period with a re-assessment at that time.

6. Editorial criteria for the CME project: subjects, style, etc.

The following broad categories were identified:

- Biographies (not only male institutional leaders) (should include relationship to the church)
- Conferences
- Congregations
- Institutions
- Geographic divisions
- Statistics
- Publications ( periodicals, etc.)
- Mennonite businesses
- Gender issues

**AGREED** that each committee member prepare a list under these categories for their geographic or denominational area and submit these to Sam Steiner by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Sam would collate these and mount them for further discussion and development.

Sam distributed copies of the *Mennonite Encyclopedia Vol. V* Style Sheet used by

*the editors and writers. This document was viewed as a good guide for quality control.*

*AGREED that Sam will send an electronic copy of the MEV Style Sheet to Abe Dueck and Victor Wiebe for editing into something useful for the CME project.*

*7. Budget forecasts and fundraising*

*Sam Steiner has volunteered 4 months of his sabbatical in 1998 for this project.*

*AGREED that the budget for 1998 be \$5000 and that we plan for a ¼ time staff person for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.*

*AGREED that Abe Dueck discuss with MHSC president the possibility of approaching MCC regarding a contribution toward this project for 1998.*

*AGREED that Sam Steiner will prepare a more formal budget proposal for the December meeting.*

*8. AGREED that the next meeting of the Archive committee be on Dec. 5, 1997  
2:00 p.m. in Winnipeg. (most likely at Concord College)*

*Recorded by  
Alf Redekopp*