

**GAMEO Management Board Minutes**  
**Wyse 316, Goshen College,**  
**Goshen, Indiana**  
**2019 May 6, 4:00 pm**

Present: Jon Isaak (Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission), Bert Friesen (Mennonite Historical Society of Canada; chair), John D. Roth (General Editor; Mennonite World Conference; Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism), Ken Sensenig (Mennonite Central Committee), Jason Kauffman (Mennonite Church USA) and Alf Redekopp (Associate Editor).

**1) Opening and introductions**

Bert Friesen began the meeting by commenting with appreciation about the warm welcome we always receive at Goshen College.

Bert read a Bible passage from the end of Paul's letter to the Colossians (4:7ff) and commented on how the passage reminds us of the work we do that will have an impact on many people that we will never meet. Bert prayed for God's guidance and wisdom in our deliberations.

**2) Review of Agenda**

Consensus 1: That we defer items 4, 5 and 7 until tomorrow when Sam Steiner will be able join us via video conferencing.

**3) GAMEO structure update**

In Costa Rica John Roth has focused on working with individuals, not on the formation of groups.

Consensus 2: that stub articles be created using directories or lists of congregations for areas such as Costa Rica and Indonesia, as a way to show potential and as an encouragement to get more content with time. The content could be posted in the language of the people that compiled it and in English.

Consensus 3: John Roth will attempt to acquire a list of Mennonite congregations in Costa Rica.

Consensus 4: that stub articles be created for educational institutions from the Global South using existing lists from MWC.

Consensus 5: that the Global Anabaptist history series be mined for content.

Affirmation was expressed for current lodging of GAMEO with the Institute of Global Anabaptist Studies and for the current relationship with MWC.

Gender balance on GAMEO Management board was discussed. It was acknowledged that there is little control over who is sent as a representative from the partners to the management board, but we could appoint others based on perceived needs such as additional staff (associate editor and or a content managing editor).

**4) Priorities**

John Roth reported on his activities. John Rempel (Ontario) was contacted and invited be a consulting editor. Rempel declined, but was open to being asked again. John Roth did not reconnect with the other consulting editors, but intends to do that yet. A list of relevant theological articles compiled by Jon Isaak was appended to John's report as reminder of priorities established.

Contacting authors of select MennLex articles and getting these translations into GAMEO continues to be a priority.

Consensus 6: to accept Alf Redekopp's offer to work at some translation of specifically identified theological articles.

Consensus 7: that congregational stub articles could be posted in two languages – the language of the compiler and in English.

Consensus 8: that Ken Sensenig continue to send country updates to Sam Steiner.

Consensus 9: Jason Kauffman will continue to reference GAMEO in the Anabaptist Historians blog site where possible to promote awareness. He will also continue to promote awareness through the Michiana Historians. He will consider ways of making Anita Hooley Yoder's work on women accessible in GAMEO.

A suggestion was made to consider the use of an MCC IVEPer or the 10-week summer student volunteer program to work at a specific content area.

5) Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. We agreed to reconvene on Tuesday 9:00 am at the Administration Building.

2019 May 7, 9:00 am

Sam Steiner joined via Zoom video conferencing.

## **6) Report**

Sam Steiner highlighted aspect of his distributed report, especially regarding statistics.

Sam was asked about the role and effectiveness of generating content via regional committees.

Response: There is still a roll for some of the regional committees even though some operate only at an e-mail level.

The report highlighted some concern about Peaceworks, having had several changes in CEO over the past few years. But the general feeling is that we have been getting a very reasonable service for our money. Comparative quotes had not been received from Goshen, nor Akron. This was explained. In Goshen, Menno.Net relies heavily on students; these often graduate and move on, resulting in less stability and continuity. Menno.net chose not to offer a bid. In Akron, it was learned that MCC also uses Peaceworks for some of their external website needs.

## **7) Dedicated Server**

We have a better understanding of the need for a dedicated server for GAMEO, than a year ago. On a dedicated server, major problems will be isolated quicker than on a shared server. On a shared server we risk adversely affecting others on the same server if we encounter a major problem. We would be "better neighbours" by leaving the shared environment and having a dedicated server.

Consensus 10: to accept Peaceworks' proposal for a dedicated server and that we ask Peaceworks to implement the proposal this year.

## **8) Staffing**

The need for additional staffing was discussed. Jason Kauffman reported that he cannot take additional responsibilities at this time. The type of person needed was discussed – someone that could grow into the role of managing editor, a younger retired person, someone to bring more gender balance to the project, etc.

Consensus 11: that Sam Steiner circulate the job descriptions and that we advertise for additional staffing in our main Mennonite newspapers such as Mennonite World Review, Canadian Mennonite and The Mennonite; and also have such a notice on the main GAMEO page.

## **9) Funding and other support**

Consensus 12: that John Roth explore avenues of Bruderhof support for GAMEO.

Consensus 13: Ken Sensenig will provide contact information for additional educational institutions that could be invited to become regular financial contributors.

## **10) Promotion**

Consensus 14: that John Roth will write a news release highlighting aspects of the GAMEO project and recent decisions.

## **11) Budget**

Bert Friesen reviewed the financial statement and FY2018 budget, pointing out that income has covered expenses, and that the FY2019 budget will be similar, with approximately \$9000 income and \$8000 in expenses.

Consensus 15: to accept the report and projected FY2019 budget.

Bert Friesen and Jon Isaak receive the monthly financial statements. A copy is also forwarded to Sam Steiner.

## **12) Recommendations (to our partners)**

None

## **13) Next meeting date**

Consensus 16: to meet in June 22, 2020 in Akron in conjunction with some of the MCC centennial celebration events which will take place June 19 & 20, 2020.

## **14) Other**

Bert Friesen gave notice that he would like to step aside as the MHSC representatives on the GAMEO Management Board after the meeting in June 2020. He has been with the project since its inception

in 1987, when a database committee managed information gathered by Frank Epp's Mennonites in Canada history project.

Bert was thanked for his service and commitment demonstrated through his leadership and record-setting 33 years of service.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Recorded by Alf Redekopp